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GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

S.Kirthana, Std VII,
Holy Family Convent
Mat. Hr. Sec. School
Chennai.

Contents

Serial Stories:

Countdown - 4
Vanished - 22
The Mongoose Saga - 28
The Cupboard Puller - 76

Your Pages:

Pot Pourri - 56
Birthday Bash - 73

Monthly Contest:

Plus – Minus - 16
Gogo's Grid–3 - 65

Picture Stories:

Divine Child - 12
Capital Kick - 44
Detective Dumpy - 68
Tinku - 80

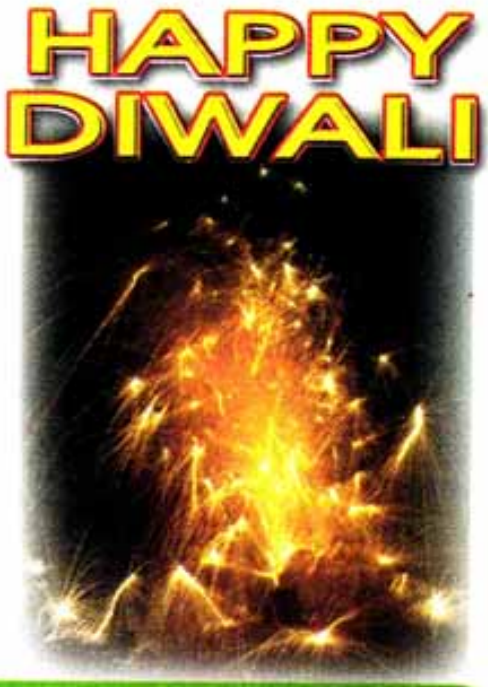
Science:

Wonder Science - 33
Helicopter - 62

Favourites:

Grandmaworm, Viewpoint,
Hello Doctor, Jokes,
Art Gallery,
Creative Corner,
Let's Cook Up,
News Digest

The drawing featured on top of each page in this issue is by **Kaveri Nair, Std.II, National Model MHSS., Coimbatore.**



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OCTOBER 2006
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Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

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THE Magazine for Children

A PROFOUND QUESTION!

Dear Reader,

Grandmaworm passed on to me a question from Swathi, Mumbai, saying, "Here's a profound question; perhaps you would like to highlight the subject in the editorial column."

Swathi is disturbed over the corruption, violence and pollution all around us and asks grandma, "What can I, as an individual do about all this? My friends ask me to take it easy; pointing out that I can't reform the world."

Well Swathi, your friends are right in a way. You can't as an individual reform the world, but collectively all of us can and this is what freedom and democracy is all about. To achieve this, all of us have to make up our minds to live a pure and honest life.

Let us promise ourselves that we will not give or receive bribes; that we will not succumb to violence nor indulge in violence, we will not encourage violence in any form; we will not pollute the earth in any manner; we will vote only for the honest candidate without looking in to other aspects like party affiliations etc.

Once you are sure of yourself, you will have the moral courage to speak or write opposing wrong doings and supporting good efforts. If each one of us start behaving like this, our country will soon be rid of bad elements. Love, honesty and hard work will prevail, leading us towards prosperity and peace.

- Editor

It has been our policy at Gokulam to provide our readers with the best, always at an affordable cost. However, paper and printing material costs have increased multifold in the past few months, leading us to increase the cover price of your Gokulam.

From November 2006, Gokulam will cost Rs.10/-. However, we have something special to offer as well.

We are very pleased to announce that from next month your favourite Gokulam, is turning all colour! Colour is in! Colour is fun! Colour is cool! Colour is vibrant!

Await your more colourful and vibrant Gokulam come November.

— **Publisher**

Terrible TRAFFIC, Terrific

Tarun was on his way to school. He watched the traffic constable for some time at the intersection of two main roads near his school. The constable had a funny way of controlling traffic. It was as if he was performing bharatanatyam. He clicked his boots and stamped his feet while turning around and signalling with deft movements of his hands. Tarun knew that this was a peculiar style followed by that particular policeman and enjoyed the show!

But today, Tarun was disappointed. There was another constable in his place and he couldn't find anything artistic in his style of functioning. Tarun turned to walk along to school when he noticed an old woman on the other side of the road wanting to cross, but hesitating. She was scared of the traffic. Tarun wondered if he should go to her help. But before he could act, the traffic constable was by her side. He stopped the traffic on both sides and helped her to walk along the zebra crossing.

When the old lady and the constable neared him, Tarun gathered courage and asked, "What happened to the other constable who was on regular duty here?"

The new cop looked at Tarun sharply as though chiding him for his boldness. He seemed to say, 'I've no time for silly questions, young man!'

Suddenly his expression changed. A kind smile lit up his face. Arun could read the plastic strip above the shirt pocket on his left breast. It read : Sanjay Kumar.

"Oh, he's been posted to another area" said Sanjay. "We traffic constables are periodically shuttled from one place to another, you know!"

"Why?"

"Why!" Sanjay wondered; and as though it suddenly dawned on him,

he said, "because the government would not like us to develop a vested interest in a particular area, that's why! Familiarity not only breeds contempt but also induces other bad habits, like for instance...."

"Bribery!" Tarun concluded the sentence for him.

"You are a smart young man" said Sanjay. "Just like Prasad. By the way, what's your name?"

Tarun introduced himself. He wanted to ask who Prasad was, but before he could put in another word Sanjay had left him and gone back to his duty.

At lunch time Tarun thought of the cop once again and how his voice

Cop!

choked when he mentioned the name Prasad. Curiosity over-powered him and he could not resist returning to the road junction.

Sanjay was talking to another constable. As soon as Sanjay saw Tarun, he smiled and asked, "Finished lunch?"

"Yes" said Tarun. "Are you going home?"

"That's it" said Sanjay. "My shift is over.

"I've been under the impression that traffic control was rather an easy task." said Tarun.

"It's not" said Sanjay

firmly. "Besides we have duties other than just traffic control."

"Such as...?"

"We check and take action against over speeding, drunken driving, over loading of vans and lorries, transporting contraband articles and so on. We file cases against law breakers and make them face the judge."

Suddenly the loud cry of a child was heard. Tarun looked around in panic and shock, but soon realised that it was just the sound emanating from a motorbike horn! The rider was over speeding and weaving in and out of traffic disregarding lane restrictions.

Sanjay held out his gloved hands and walked to the centre of the road.

Dad : Son have you prepared for your exams?

Son : Yes dad. I have polished my shoes, cleaned my clothes, filled ink in the pen... only studying remains.

- C.Sajan Vas, Std.IX,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Bolarum, Secunderabad

He was taking a big risk but traffic on either side stopped on seeing the uniformed cop and hearing his shrill whistle. The bike rider tried to avoid Sanjay but Sanjay stood alert and firm right in front of him with outstretched hands, making him apply the brake.

"Get down and walk with me to the curb" ordered Sanjay. The rider pushing along the bike made his way to the edge of the road. Sanjay asked him for his driver's license and the R.C. book of his vehicle.

"Do you know who I am?" asked the mobike rider in defiance He mentioned the name of a powerful politician and claimed to be his close relative.

"I don't care who you are" said Sanjay. "You are a traffic offender and a bully!"

The youngster stylishly pulled out a wallet from his pant pocket and extracted a five hundred rupee note!

"Now you are adding to your woes" said Sanjay. "Besides disobeying all traffic rules, you are using a prohibited high decibel horn and also driving without a license. Now, in addition to all these crimes you are trying to bribe a uniformed police officer. I have to book you. Let's walk to the police station!"

Tarun met Sanjay the next day after lunch. "You are a brave and honest cop", he said.

"I just do my duty" said Sanjay and taking hold of Tarun's hand he continued in a sad voice; "I lost my son Prasad in a traffic accident." ●

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Quality Time!

October this year is a month of festivity. The excitement is building up slowly but surely. The shops have turned on their fairy lights. Banners, posters and hoardings all call out to celebrate this season with their products. Clothes are to be bought, dresses stitched, and sweets to be made and the all-important crackers to be bought. Such feverish activity!

Alas! Gone are the days when festivals were cultural observances. Deepavali used to be family affairs. Aunts, uncles and cousins, all congregated at family homes and renewed bonds. In the south it is marked with an early morning oil bath and prayer, and puja in the evening. For the business communities of the west and north Deepavali heralds the New Year. New accounts are started.

Deepavali is now being turned into a commercial affair. Emphasis seems to be on what to buy. The newspapers, magazines and television scream of sales and freebies. Television channels vie with each other for maximum viewers - the latest film, or a debate. A popular actor is featured to tell you how he or she spent Deepavali as a child and how it is spent today.

Deepavali is all about the destruction of the darkness of ignorance and the dawning of hope and a new beginning. It marks the victory of good over evil and is a time when family customs and traditions are passed on to the next generation. When we hear of our parents and elders talk of time spent together, it is time to rethink on what we are going to take forward in life. Let us work towards absorbing the real meaning of this festival. Let us

MEERA

do things together –making memories that will last a lifetime. Make Deepavali fun yet meaningful. We could start now –planning and creating. To bring light into our homes and lives. Clean out your cupboards and rooms and redecorate them. Practise kolams and rangoli and decide how to arrange the lamps. See how we can be eco-friendly and still have a good time. Make a list of noiseless fireworks from those factories that do not employ child labour. Help mother and grandmothers prepare sweets and snacks. Make time for a short family prayer and lunch together. Do all your research on how this festival used to be celebrated in your family and in different parts of the country. Most important make sure you share some time and goodies with the less fortunate.

Deepavali is a time traditions and values are handed down. Seek the blessings of the elders, spend time with them.

Have a grand time! Happy Deepavali!

Family Time!

Dear Grandma,

Is there a tenth planet? Please give details.

- P.Nellaikumar, Coimbatore

Dear Nellaikumar,

There is not only a tenth planet but more! Scientists are now agreed that there are 12 planets! They are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Ceres, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Charon and the tiny Xena (also known as 2003 GB 313). So your text books will be rewritten in the days ahead! It is not as though the new planets have suddenly sprung up. Scientists have now evolved a consensus as to what constitutes a planet and these 12 qualify. There are other minor 'planets' too but now they are known as 'small solar system bodies". They are no longer referred to as planets, for the new definition of a planet is very specific. But I don't think astrologers need to worry much since the major planets are the same.

★ ★ ★

I want to contribute some of my paintings to Gokulam but can I get my paintings back, even if they get published?

- Kirti Samantray, Bhubaneswar

Dear Kirti,

Sure you can, if you make a proper request to the editor and enclose sufficient return postage. If you don't want your painting folded up and spoiled it's better you send a plastic or cloth lined envelope with postage stamps affixed, for return of the paintings.

★ ★ ★

I am a ninth standard student and also an athlete. I spend five hours on the ground practising and when I come home I feel very tired and unable to concentrate on studies. How am I to manage this situation?

- N.Amitha, Bangalore

Is There a Tenth Planet?

Dear Amitha,

First and foremost you have to decide on what is going to be your future. Is it sports or some other profession? If you decide to be an athlete, then your time must be spent more on the track. Otherwise curtail it and

spend more time on studies. As for the tiredness it can't be helped. Go to bed early, sleep tight and wake up by say four in the morning and attend to your lessons. Early morning is the best time

to absorb and retain in the mind what you read.

★ ★ ★

I am in a depressed state. I am not able to study. I watch a lot of TV just to forget my depression. Now I am scoring low marks. Please help me.

- Name withheld on request, Hyderabad

Dear 'Deppy',

Depression is a state of mind like anger, hatred, jealousy and other negative attitudes. You should control your mind just as you would like to control your pet dog. Learn padmasana and meditation from an expert in yoga. Also take nourishing vegetarian food to keep your body in good shape, for depression can also arise out of physical weakness. Keep telling yourself "I will conquer" and in due course you will conquer your mind and many other short comings that go with a weak mind. I will then be able to address you as "Brighty" instead of 'Deppy'!

★ ★ ★

I am in standard nine and love the Hindi language. But I am weak in this subject and unable to speak fluently in Hindi. How am I to deal with this problem?

- Shital Khundanglam, Manipur

Dear Shital,

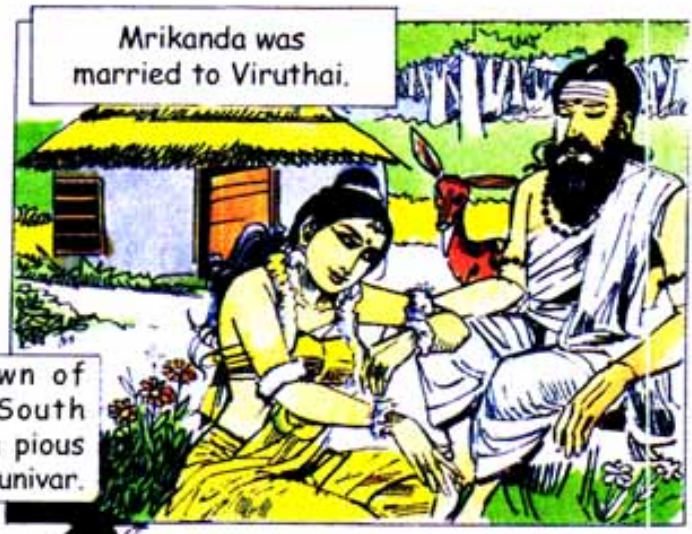
Fifty percent of your problem is already solved since you say you love Hindi. A language is best learnt by listening and speaking in addition to reading and writing. Listen carefully to Hindi news bulletins and try to understand the dialogues in good Hindi plays telecast on various channels. Speak to your Hindi teacher and others who know Hindi, in that language only and ask them to correct your choice of words and pronunciation. Don't feel shy. No one can afford to be shy in the learning process. Read books in Hindi other than text books. Start with stories for kids and move upwards.

Love,
Grandmaworm

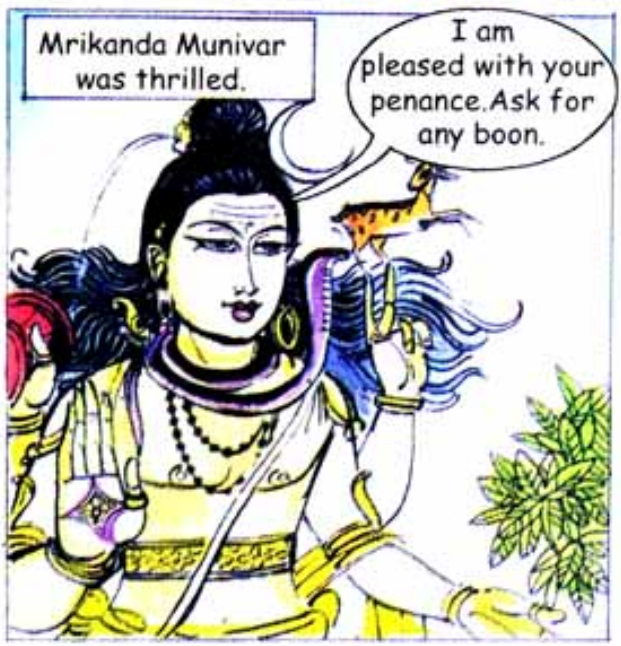
DIVINE CHILD-4

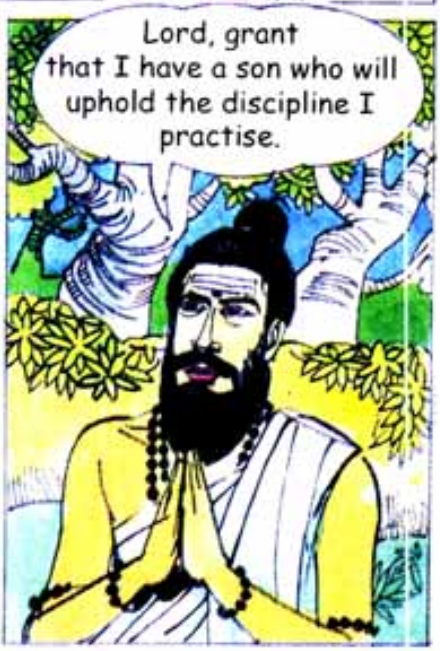
FOREVER YOUNG: MARKANDEYA

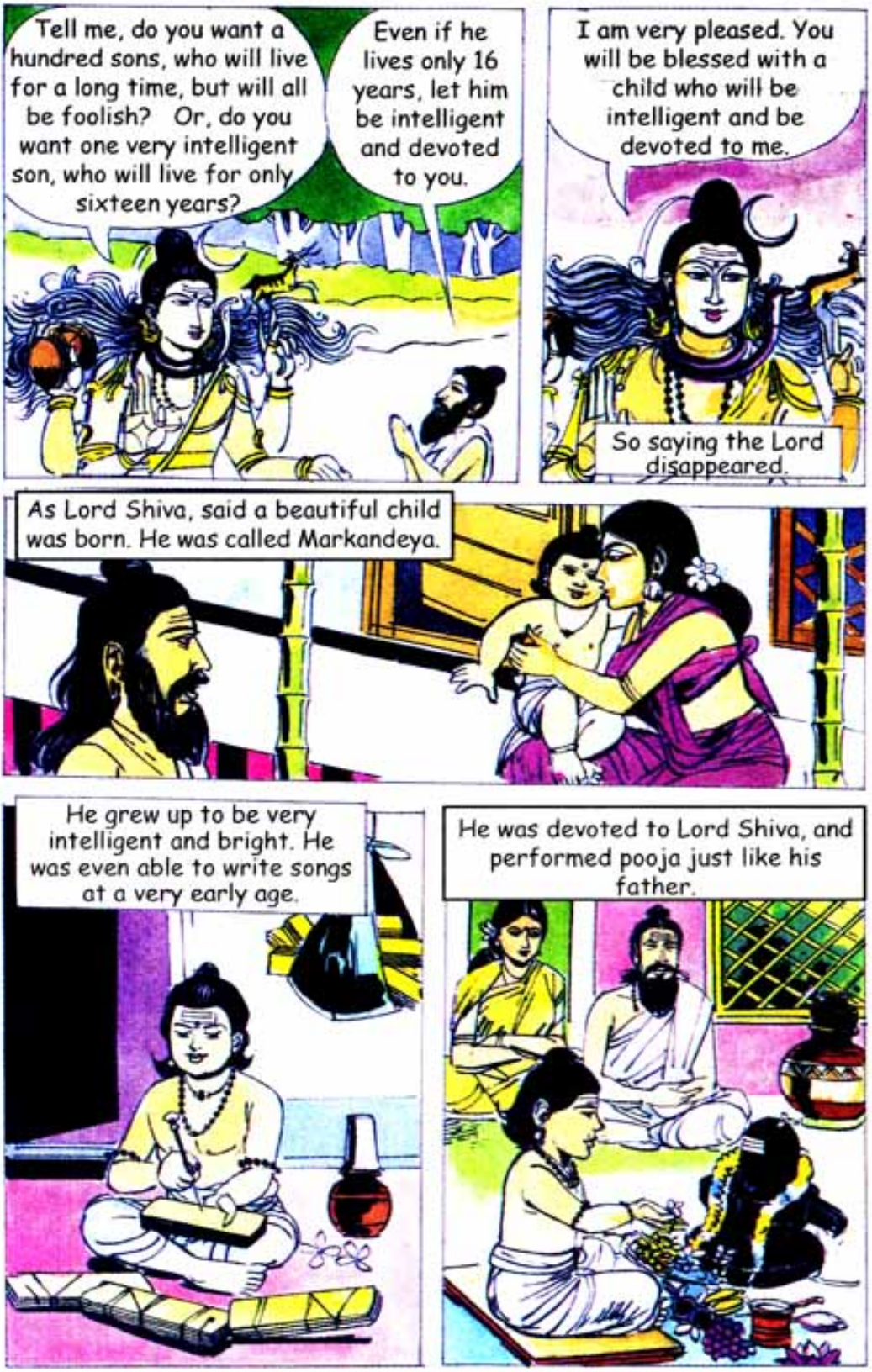
Story, Pictures: Thamarai



In the temple town of Tirukkadavur, in South India, there lived a pious Brahmin, Mrikanda Munivar.






Tell me, do you want a hundred sons, who will live for a long time, but will all be foolish? Or, do you want one very intelligent son, who will live for only sixteen years?
Even if he lives only 16 years, let him be intelligent and devoted to you.
I am very pleased. You will be blessed with a child who will be intelligent and be devoted to me.
So saying the Lord disappeared.
As Lord Shiva, said a beautiful child was born. He was called Markandeya.
He grew up to be very intelligent and bright. He was even able to write songs at a very early age.
He was devoted to Lord Shiva, and performed pooja just like his father.

There were just a few days left for Markandeya to complete sixteen years. Seeing his parents worried...

Mother why are you and father so unhappy?

Mrikanda told his son about Shiva's boon.

Dear son, only a few days remain. We cannot bear the thought of losing you!

Markandeya consoled his parents.

Dear parents, you have been blessed by Lord Shiva with my birth. He will never let me down.

He prayed to Lord Shiva with deep devotion.

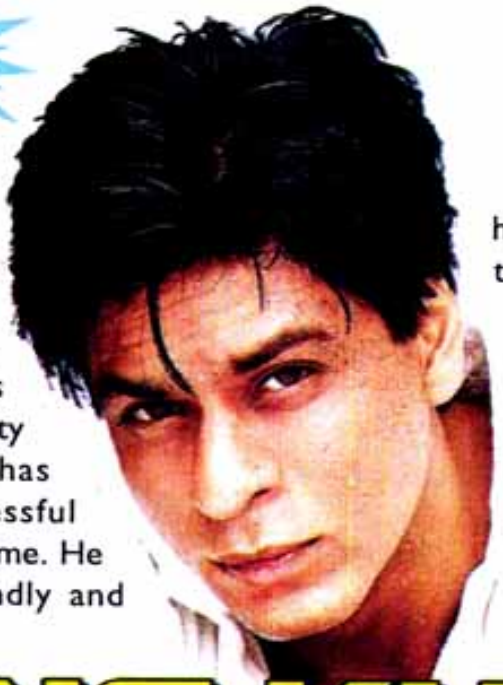
Om Namah Shivaya! Om Namah Shivaya!

Yama called Chitraguptan and asked him about Markandeya. Chitraguptan said his time was over that day.

Kaala go and bring Markandeya's spirit.

Kaala neared Markandeya whose piety burnt him like fire.
Enraged, Yama set out with his noose.
Markandeya, birth and death are for everyone, even me and Brahma. Come with me. I will honour you in my kingdom.
Lord I am unable to go near the boy. I beg your forgiveness.
Yama, devotees of Lord Shiva go to Kailash. Not to your kingdom. Go away at once.
Yama threw the noose around Markandeya and the Shiva Lingam, he embraced. Shiva appeared and kicked him with his left leg.
How dare you come close to my devotee. Perish!
Yama fainted. The Devas prayed to Lord Shiva to revive him.
Markandeya remained sixteen for the rest of his life. He made his parents proud with his devotion to them.

Best Entry



KING KHAN

Plus:

He is a great actor. He has acted in a variety of roles and has been successful almost every time. He is a very friendly and humble guy. He attributes his success to God and is certainly not a 'show-off'. He supports charities and a number of campaigns for good causes.

Minus:

He is a chain smoker, which makes him quite a wrong youth idol. He has recently been in the news for supporting the campaign for 'Pepsi" despite it being declared unsafe for drinking. People say money is all he cares about and doesnot weigh whether the products he endorses are really safe and good or not.

— Nithya Ramachandran, Std X, Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, Chennai

Arundathi Roy is an award winning author, who is also a social activist. What would you consider are her plus and minus as a social activist.

Your views should be stated in less than hundred words. The best entry wins a prize of **Rs.100/-**. The entries should reach Gokulam by 12th October.

Remember to include your name, age, class, name of school and residential address.

CHOC-O-BANANA STICK ICE CREAM

Ingredients :

Bananas: 2, Chocolate bars: 2, Ice cream sticks: 2

Method : Grate the dairy chocolate bars into a bowl. Add two tablespoonfuls of water and mix till you get a smooth paste. Insert the ice cream sticks into the bananas. Leave them in the fridge for about five minutes. Remove from the fridge and dip them in the chocolate till they are coated evenly. Leave them once again in the fridge, for about half an hour. The Choc-o-Banana Stick Ice Cream is ready.

— P. Nandhini, Age 10, Chennai.

Snack Time!

TOMATO CHEESE SANDWICHES

Ingredients : Bread - 2 slices (big), Butter - 2 teaspoons, Firm tomato - 1 small, Cheese - 10 g, Milk - ½ teaspoon, salt, pepper and mustard powder - a little, lettuce - 1 small leaf.

Method : 1. Soften butter, skin tomato, discard the seeds and chop the fleshy portion fine.

2. Grate cheese and cream it with milk. Add chopped tomato, seasoning and mix.

3. Butter the slices. Apply the tomato - cheese mixture on one buttered slice and cover with the second slice and press.

4. Remove crust and cut into desired shape. (Keep in moist napkin till served.) Before serving, garnish with shredded lettuce.

— E.Santosh Vamsi, Std.IX, St. Joseph's Girls High School, Vizag.

Infosys Narayana

An Indian IT chief who has really made it big without dropping ethics and values by the wayside is Nagawara Ramarao Narayana Murthy, Chairman of Infosys. Born in 1946, Murthy's father was a schoolteacher in Kolar district, Karnataka. Murthy was a bright student who acquired a degree in Electrical Engineering from Mysore University and went on to complete his Masters at the IIT, Kanpur. After that he worked at IIM Ahmedabad and then for a few years in France. In 1978 he joined as the general manager at Patni Computers.

Infosys, the IT giant had very humble beginnings just like that of it's mentor N. Narayana Murthy. He has proved that an ordinary person can achieve extraordinary heights. The Infosys legend began in 1981 when Narayana Murthy dreamt of forming his own company. He along with six friends pooled in their resources and began the company at the Murthys' dining table at Pune!. There was a minor hitch, though—he didn't have the required capital. Luckily, like many Indian women, his wife Sudha gave him the money she had saved for a rainy day.

The first ten years was a tough period. The second break came in 1991 when India's doors were

* The Murthy family

flung open, thanks to liberalisation. Narayana Murthy grabbed the opportunity with both hands and has never looked back ever since.

Narayana murthy claims he is "a capitalist in mind, a socialist at heart." It was his belief in the distribution of wealth that made Infosys one of the first Indian companies to offer its shares to its employee shareholders. Infosys now

Murthy

has 400 employees who are millionaires many times over!

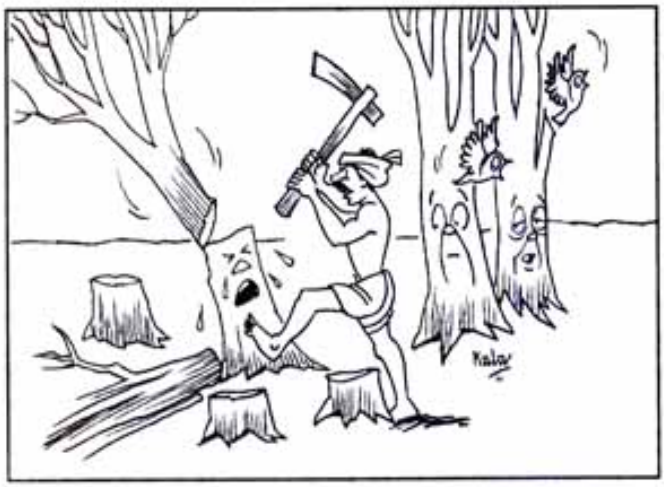
Heading a company with the largest market capitalization hasn't changed Murthy's life-style. Simplicity, humility and maintaining a low profile are the hallmarks of this super-rich Bangalorean.

The place of Murthy's dreams is one where "people of different races, nationalities and genders work with utmost courtesy and dignity." He is all for promoting women in the industry and believes that half the senior leadership should be women.

He also believes in motivating and promoting the youth. He recently retired from Infosys. This he did to create opportunities for younger people to take over the leadership. Unless room is made for young blood, an organisation cannot remain vibrant and growth-oriented.

Narayana Murthy has not sat back after amassing wealth. He believes in giving back to society. A socially conscious man, he contributes close to fifty million dollars for the education and upliftment of the poor and under privileged. But he does not like to talk about it. He wants "every Indian to be rich."

— Kaushalya Narendran,
Std.VII,
Vasant Vihar High School,
Thane

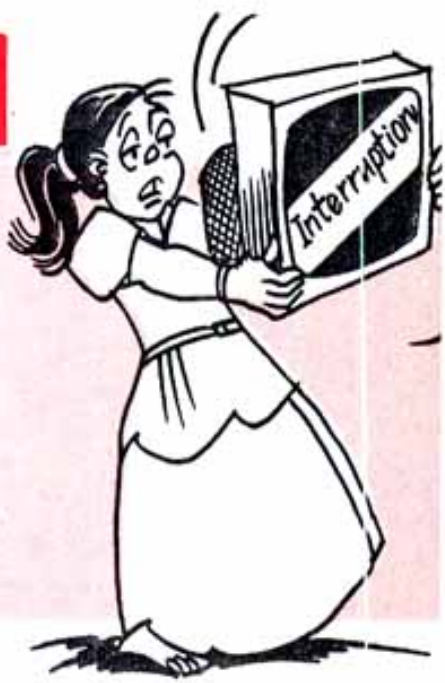


AGAINST NATURE

Rice, wheat and corn,
Are all crops of the dawn,
Spice, pulse and maize,
Man does raise.
Wildlife includes plants too,
And of course insects few.
There are lions, tigers and
wild bears,
The jungle echoes with
their ferocious roars.
There are forests in the
Artic, covered with snow,
Wonder how life survives
in temperatures so low!
Dwarf bushes and lichens
too are vegetation,
And to cut them down is man's
temptation.
To burn forests and cut them down
Turns nature to ash from
Green and brown.

- Ila Tyagi, Std.IX,
Agra Cantt., Agra

The World



SUPER HEROES

Supernatural characters come in
story books,
Characters with extraordinary powers and
strange looks.

One red, one blue,
One flies around, the other too!

They use their powers to save the world,
Boys or girls, a cat or bird.

SMILE

As you travel along life's way,
With its many ups and
downs;
Remember, it's quite true
to say,
One smile is better than a
dozen frowns.

Among the world's expensive
things,
A smile is pretty cheap;
And when you give a smile away,
You get one back to keep.

Happiness comes, at times, to all
And sadness comes unbidden;
Sometimes a few tears fall,
Amongst the laughter, hidden.

So when your friends are sad, on
days,
That troubles on them pile;
The world will be a better place,
If on your face, there's smile.

- G.Veena, Std.XII,
Holy Angels Convent,
Trivandrum

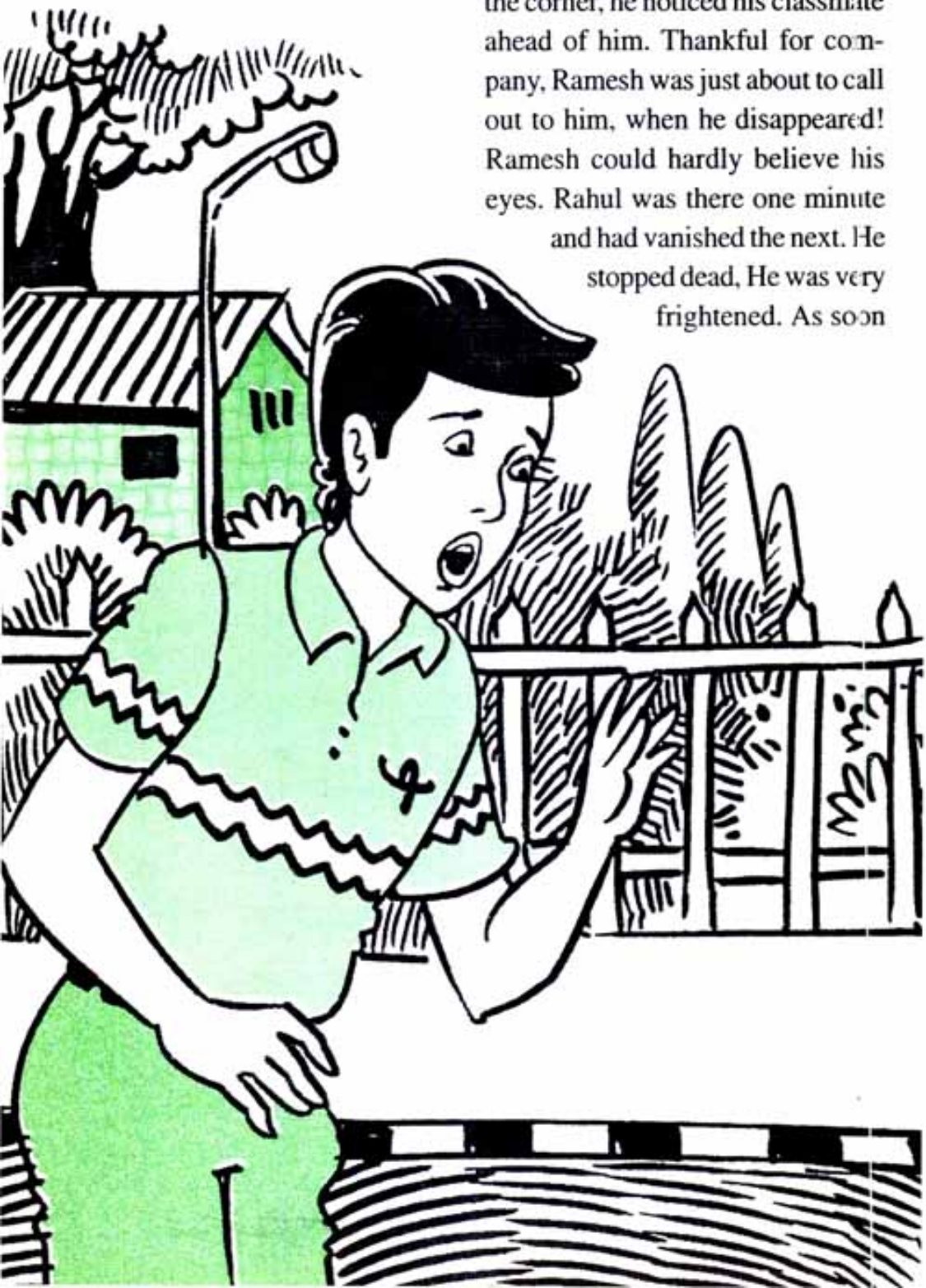
and it's Heroes

They fly up high into the air
With a hood that flutters behind the hair.

They save the world from hands of evil,
They help to keep our world safe,
The super heroes save the world from destruction.
But they can do nothing about your cable
TV interruption!

- Preethi Viswanathan, Age 11,
Somerville School, Noida

It was rather late after special classes. Hunger was gnawing at the pit of his stomach. The street was practically empty. As he turned the corner, he noticed his classmate ahead of him. Thankful for company, Ramesh was just about to call out to him, when he disappeared! Ramesh could hardly believe his eyes. Rahul was there one minute and had vanished the next. He stopped dead, He was very frightened. As soon



as his feet would move Ramesh took to his heels. Running as fast as he could, Ramesh took the short cut home. His mother was shocked to see him in such a state. He was out of breath and panting heavily. Drenched in sweat, his shirt was plastered to his body. His hair was in total disarray and his face was blanched as though he had seen a ghost!

After he calmed down he narrated what he had witnessed. Ramesh's mother was horrified but was relieved that her son was safe and sound.

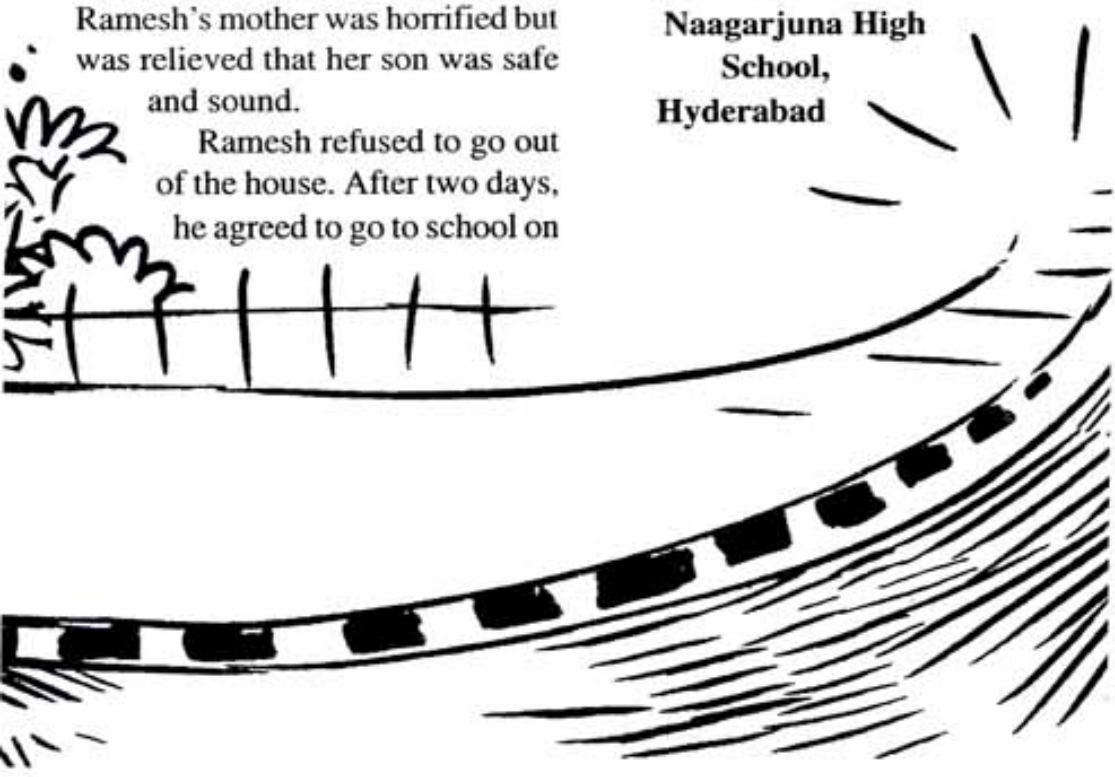
Ramesh refused to go out of the house. After two days, he agreed to go to school on the condition that the school van would pick him up and drop his at his doorstep. All the while, Rahul was on his mind.

As Ramesh entered class that day, Rahul was the first person he saw! Shocked and bewildered he watched Rahul approach him.

VANISHED!

Rahul demanded to know why Ramesh did not help him out of the man hole he had fallen into!

— A.Anurag Reddy, Std.IX, Naagarjuna High School, Hyderabad



Dance Teacher : There are only two things that are stopping you from becoming a great dancer.

Suman : What are they?

Teacher : Your feet.

- Ananya Mishra, Std.VIII,
Ruchika High School,
Bhubaneshwar

Economics Teacher : Name a product in which the supply always exceeds the demand.

Student : Trouble!

- Satish Krishnan, Std.X,
The S.I.A. High School,
Thane

Supply and Demand

Teacher : If you had one rupee and you asked your father for another, how many rupees would you have?

Rahul : One rupee.

Teacher : You don't know maths!

Rahul : You don't know my father.

- Gautam Nagesh, Std.XII,
DAV Public School,
Thane.

Ramu : Why does the mosquito suck our blood?

Shyam : Maybe it wants to do a blood test.

-Anson Mathew, Std.VII,
St.Thomas' Boys' School, Kolkata.

Rowling`s Commemoration!

In July 1999, Harry Potter mania was at it's peak. In Edinburgh, writer Joanne Kathleen Rowling refused all media requests, as she worked feverishly on Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. In Toronto, nine year-old fan Natalie McDonald was dying.

Remembers family friend Annie Kidder, "Harry Potter books had been her respite from the hell of leukaemia." She badgered Rowling's publishers in London, sending a letter, an e-mail and a fax. The letter arrived at Rowling's home a day after the author had left for a holiday in Spain. "When I came two weeks later and read it, I had a bad feeling I was too late." Rowling says.

Rowling was right, the e-mails were received four days after Natalie died. "Jo's e-mail was beautiful", Kidder says. "She didn't tell Natalie everything was okay. She addressed her as a human being who was going through a hard time." Remarkably, Rowling freely shared the secrets of her fourth novel, details that media and fans desperately sought for another 11 months with Natalie alone.

The story might have ended there, but Natalie's mother wrote back, in thanks. A regular correspondence began, and an unexpected friendship was cemented when McDonalds met Rowling.

Even before that trip, the author had quietly commemorated the reader she never met. While McDonald was on London TV, reading the just released Goblet of Fire, she found on page 159 that the famous sorting flat of Hogwarts school of witch craft and wizardly sends first - year student Natalie McDonald—the only real person named in Rowling's novels—to Harry's own Gryffinder house.

Retold — **Priyanka Rao, Age 18, Visakhapatnam.**

WHAT IS BMI?

★ **Abhishek Chatterjee, Bhubaneswar**

? What is meant by Body Mass Index? How is it calculated?

! Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measurement of our body which indicates whether we weigh right for our age and height. It is calculated by the formula:

BMI = weight in kgs / (height in metres)^2

BMI of 17 – 25 is normal for women and 17 – 27 is normal for men. BMI 27 – 32 is over weight and BMI more than 32 is obese. It is helpful for those who want to maintain their body weight, specially diabetics and obese persons.

★ **Priya Sarkar, Bangalore**

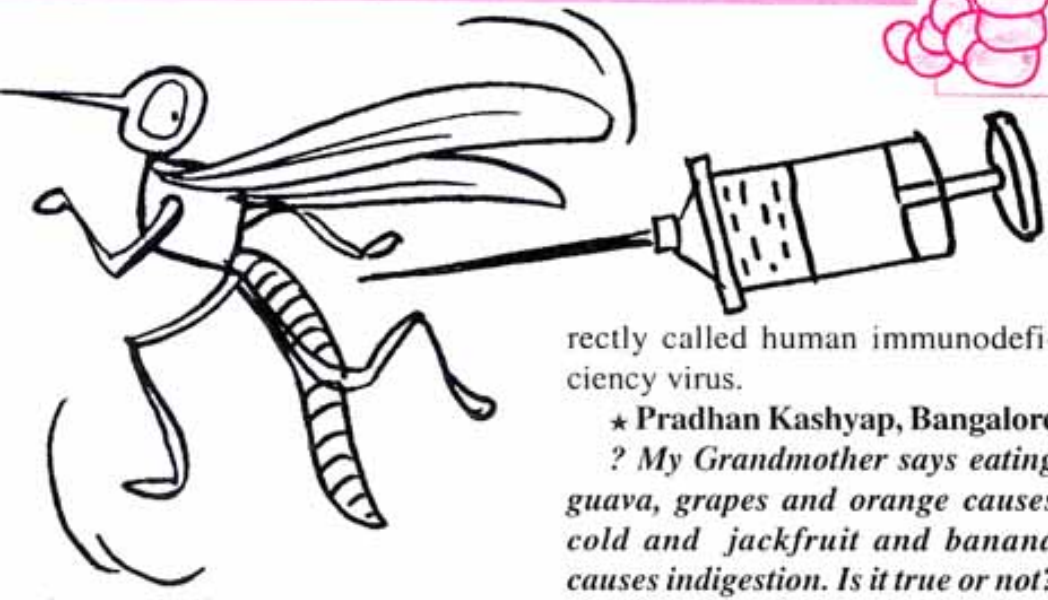
? Why does our nose get blocked when we cry?

! When we cry, tears are produced in the eye by the lacrimal glands. They then pass through numerous ducts in the eye and reach the lacrimal sac which is situated in the corner of the eye near the upper part of the nose. A duct called lacrimal duct arises from this sac and reaches the lower surface of the nasal cavity. Tears are usually drained from the lacrimal sac into the nasal cavity by the lacrimal duct. While crying there is a sudden rise in the discharge of tears that causes congestion in the nose. Hence the nose gets blocked.

★ **K.Apuroopa, Hyderabad**

? When AIDS is transmitted

Dr.G.Ganesan



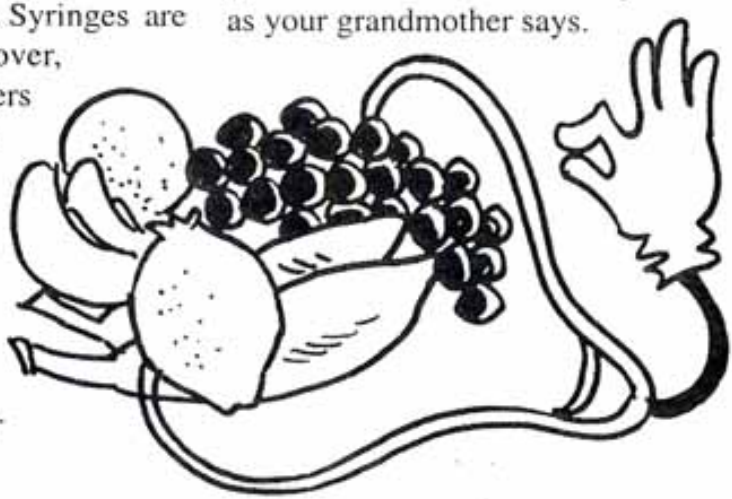
through infected, unsterilised syringes and needles, then why not through the bite of a mosquito, as both of them pierce through the skin and reach blood?

! Mosquitoes cannot transmit the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Mosquitoes use their proboscises to suck the blood from our body and not to inject. Syringes are used for both. Moreover, the moment HIV enters into the stomach of a mosquito, the virus is killed. The HIV cannot even reach the blood of the mosquito. The HIV can survive only in human blood. It is correctly called human immunodeficiency virus.

★ **Pradhan Kashyap, Bangalore**

? My Grandmother says eating guava, grapes and orange causes cold and jackfruit and banana causes indigestion. Is it true or not?

! It is not true. Citrus fruits such as grapes and oranges have plenty of vitamin-C which guards against cold. If you are allergic to any one of these fruits you could get sneezing bouts. It is called allergic rhinitis not cold. It can be cured by taking anti allergic treatment promptly. Banana is usually given to prevent constipation and promote easy digestion. It will not cause indigestion as your grandmother says.



The BOILING POT

Yes, well... who was going to tell him? Who had the cour age to tell Raja, the great tracker, that he had been following goat- not human- tracks, and had wasted several hours of precious time? Who would it be, Keeri, Gundu, or Bounce? Gundu repeated his question: "Who's going to tell him?"

There was no chorus of Yeses. There was only silence, and three scared faces. Then Bounce's face lit up with an answer. "I know!" he shouted. "No one! Let's just scram!"

Scramming seemed the best answer, and three mongooses scrammed for all they were worth. Soon they were dots on the horizon, making a beeline for the place where Jumpy had been kidnapped. Raja, meanwhile, had announced that he was going to take a nap, because tracking was very, very hard work. He didn't realize that no one had heard him, and he was now alone. Stretching out on a low mango branch, he was soon snoring away to glory. And that is the end of his part in our story.

The weary trio plodded, and plodded, and plodded. Day turned to night, and even their sharp mongoose eyes couldn't function. Luckily, their noses could smell just as well at night as during the day.

Zai Whitaker

On and on and on, because even an hour's rest might make it too late. By now, Gundu had repeated his theory again and again.

"It's definitely Kurvikarans, I've seen their feet and they look exactly like this," he said pointing to the footprints on the ground.

"Oh sheerup." Keeri hated his boasty little statements. "All human footprints look the same."

Gundu decided not to respond. What was the use? She would never accept that he was much, much cleverer than she was. But what did it matter? He changed the subject.

"Look, I think I see the sun rising! See that? "

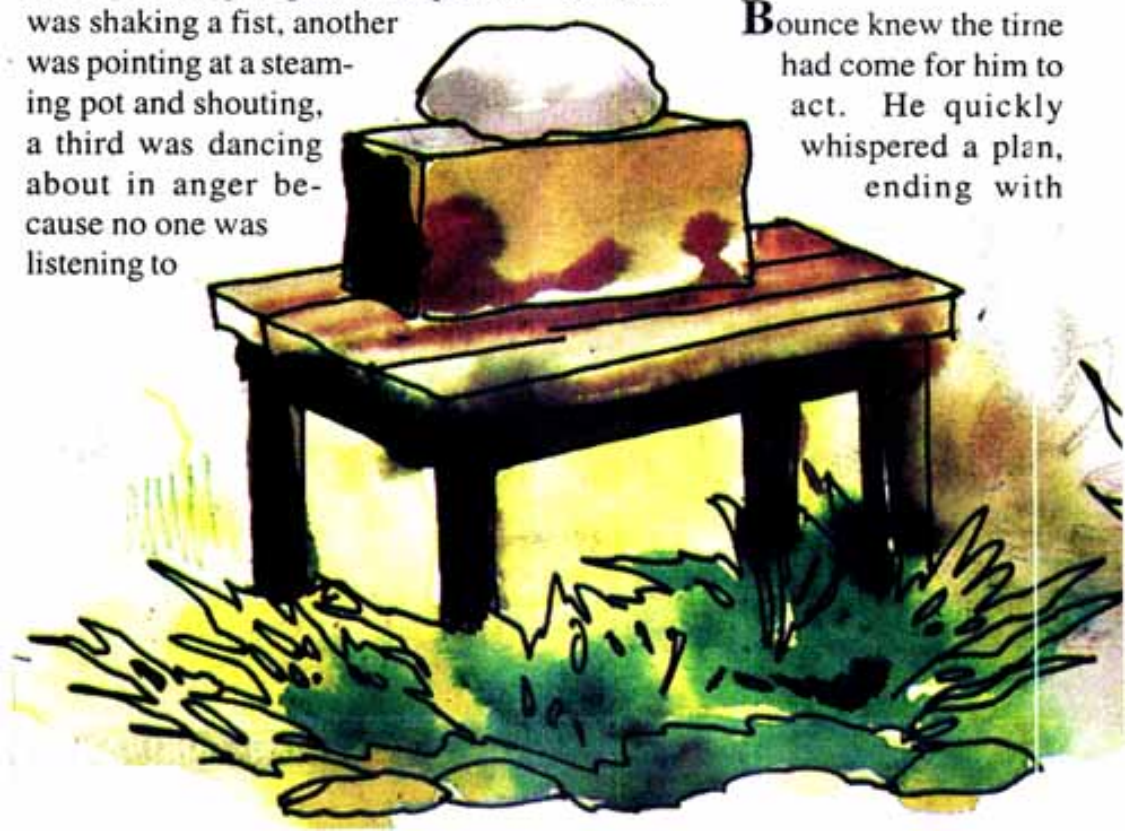
"You," said Keeri, "are pointing towards the west,. The sun, as you might know, rises in the east. ."

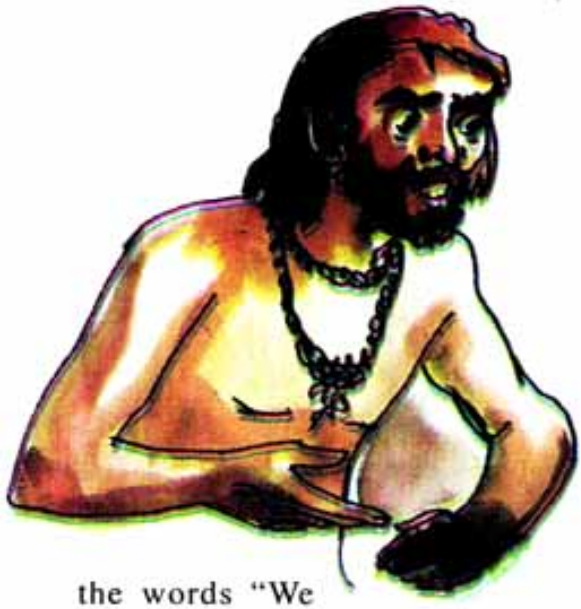
Oops, thought Gundu, and decided to keep mum for a while. Just then, the road took a sharp turn and there, in the distance, they saw a strange sight. It was a Kurvikaran camp, but instead of sleeping - as humans did at night- they were all sitting around, or standing, and a violent fight was going on. One person was shaking a fist, another was pointing at a steaming pot and shouting, a third was dancing about in anger because no one was listening to him. Without a word, hiding behind the roadside vegetation, the trio crept closer and closer. "Listen carefully," said Bounce to his mother. She had become quite an expert in human talk.

Keeri froze, listening intently. "Oh God," she said aloud, then waved them into the bushes for a quick conference. In short little whispers, she gave them a summary. "They have Jumpy. She's in that box. On the table. With the big stone on it. Some want to eat her now—water's boiling. Others want to use her for their cobra-mongoose fight. Oh God. I'm fainting."

She looked like she was about to fall. So did Gundu. "Oh, oh, it's all finished!" Keeri groaned. "Oh, bye bye my little Jumpy!" moaned Gundu.

Bounce knew the time had come for him to act. He quickly whispered a plan, ending with

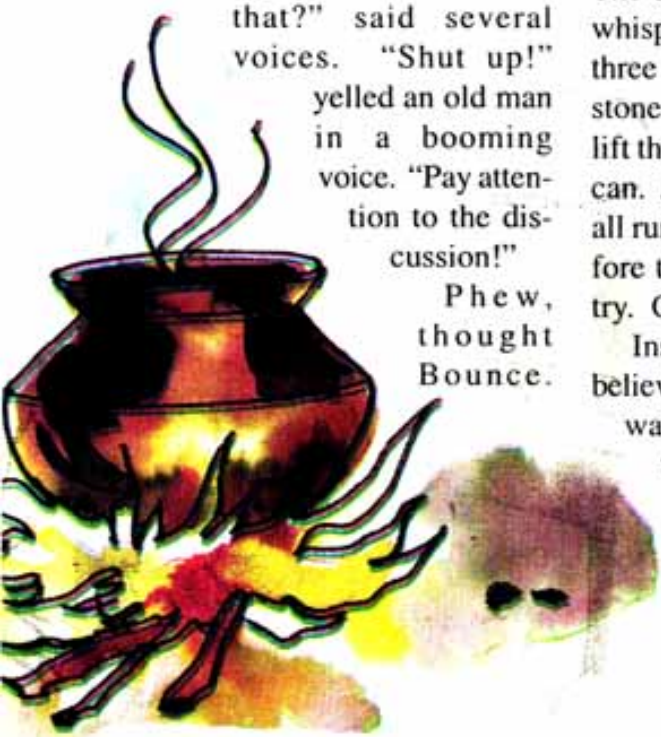




the words "We may all die, but isn't it better to die than lose Jumpy?" His parents agreed with fast and energetic nods.

Ten minutes later, the Kurvikarans heard a small sound behind the mongoose box. "What's that?" said several voices. "Shut up!" yelled an old man in a booming voice. "Pay attention to the discussion!"

Phew, thought Bounce.



The sound had been him. He had whispered to Jumpy that in a minute, three of them would attack the heavy stone and roll it off the table. "I'll lift the lid a little, with my snout, if I can. Jump. Jump for your life. We all run like lightning. We escape before they can catch us. But they'll try. Oh Boy, they sure will try."

Inside the box, Jumpy couldn't believe her ears. She held her breath, waited, and heard an explosion as the stone was pushed down.

Two minutes later, four mongooses were running like lightning, into the distance where the sun was rising... in the east, not the west.

— Concluded

Usha Narayanan

Suja's Songs 'n Stories is an album any child could sing along with. The songs have nice lyrics, that are easy to follow. The Beach song is a peppy one anybody could relate to. The Zoo Parade has the names of almost all the animals one can see at the zoo. Tiny Seed, Veggies, Travelling Star and Spikey are other songs worth mention.

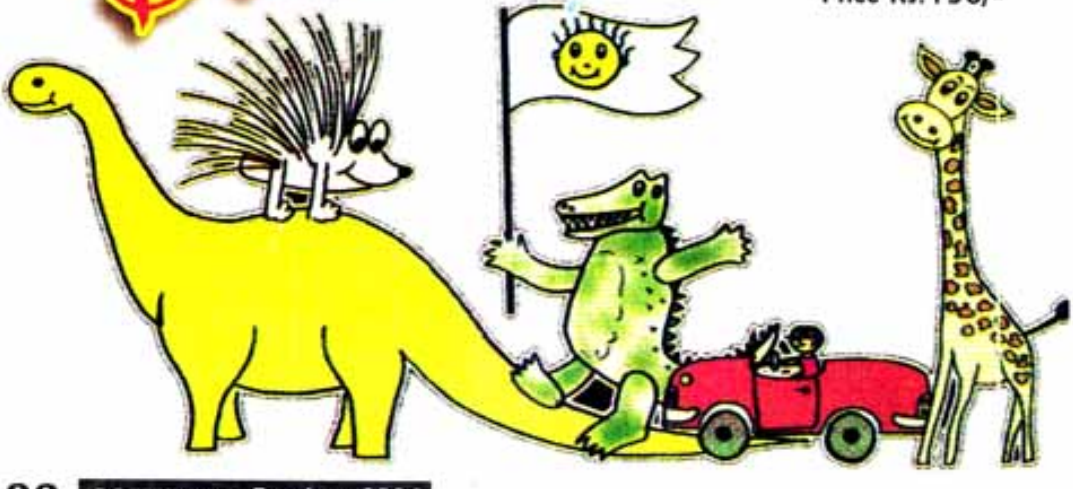
The Dinosaur song is a very good concept. Did you know there are 26 dinosaur names which begin with every letter of the alphabet! However, you may have to listen very carefully to catch the words, which have been enunciated with accent. There are a lot of new words to learn. It is a good thing the printed words come along with the album.

Perhaps children could have joined in the chorus, that would have livened up the album. The music is easy to pick up and is rhythmic. The giraffe's neck grows shorter because he had a sore throat! Can you imagine that!

On the whole a good effort.

Zoo Parade and Dinosaurs

Suja's Songs 'n Stories
Produced by
Sujatha Jaishankar
e-mail : sujatha.jaishankar@gmail.com
Price Rs.150/-



Rani Iyer

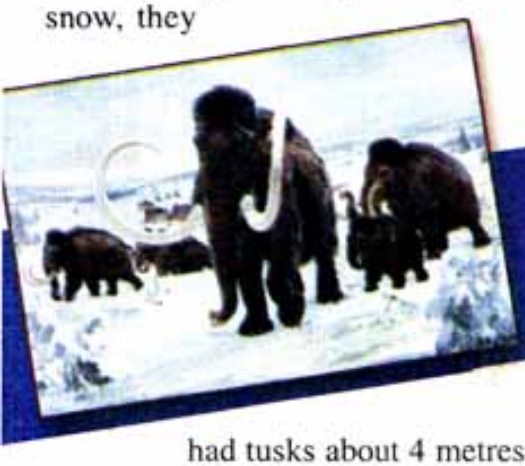
Snow Plough

About 10,000 years ago the last Ice Age, Pleistocene epoch, ended. Snow, glaciers, and ice sheets covered the Earth.

One unusual fossil of the period is the ice mummified remains of mammoths in Siberia.

The woolly mammoths had long, dense, dark black hair and under fur, long, curved tusks, a fatty hump, a long trunk, and large ears. They lived in the tundra of Asia, Europe, and North America. They were about 3.5 metres long, 2.9 metres tall at the shoulder and weighed about 3 tons!

To plough through heavy snow, they had tusks about 4 metres long! The tusks were also used in mating rituals and protection. They had large ears like modern elephant.



The fossil remains of the cave lion, for example, show that the lion was about 3.5 metres long. That is at least 25% bigger than the lions today! The two-horned woolly rhino was a plant eater, also about 3.5 meters long. Cave drawings, in Siberia and Britain, and the fossil remains, show that early man hunted these animals.

Megatherium, is another unique mammal from the ice age. It was the largest giant ground sloth; its name means "great beast." Megatherium was a huge, bulky, slow-moving plant-eater, with peg-like teeth, powerful jaws, and a thick, short tail. It walked on four legs, and might have eaten leaves from the treetops, standing upright like a kangaroo and balancing with its tail.

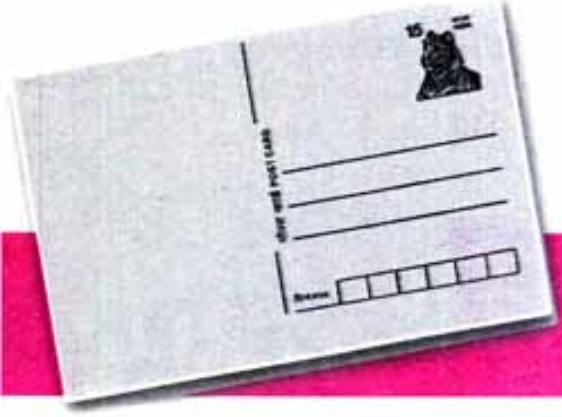
This sloth was about 6 meters long, and weighed about 3-4 tons! It inhabited South America.

Extinct animals contribute to the diversity of the Earth. Climate change has wiped out life from the face of Earth over and over again. We are living through a time when extinction, is caused by human influenced climate change. Who will win this round?

I. 'A' QUIZ

The answers to the following questions begin with 'A'.

1. Father of Political Science
2. Father of Trignometry
3. The scientist who refused the Presidency of Israel
4. The country that introduced the post card.
5. The magazine in which 'Tarzan' first appeared.
6. The fruit of the Oak tree.
7. The god who shoulders the earth



8. The first Indian doctor
9. The author of the book 'My Cricketing Years'
10. Son of Arjuna and Subhadra

— A.Anees Fathima, Std.IX, S.A.B. Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Theni

II. Eight eights add up to 1000. Can you tell how?

— H.Supraja, Std.VIII, ASSISI MHSS, Chennai

III. Given below are eight pairs of words. If one letter is taken from one word and placed in the other, you will have a pair of words with similar meaning.

Example

a) Shred - Shed

b) Ban - Barn

1. a) Laughter
   b) Skill
2. a) Freight
   b) Scar
3. a) Sit
   b) Cult
4. a) Boast
   b) Hip
5. a) Rig
   b) Penal

All in

6. a) Ego
   b) Lave
7. a) Hop
   b) Chew
8. a) Regiment
   b) Die

— B.Meenakshi, Std.IX, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Chennai

IV. Quiz the Asses

1. The ass that helps

2. The ass that talks with certainity

3. The ass that jumps to conclusions.

4. The ass that kills

5. The valuable ass

6. The ass that attacks

7. The ass that absorbs

8. The ass that agrees

9. A group of asses

10. Asses gathered at one place.

— M.Shiva Prakash,
Std.IX,
Sudarshan Vidya Mandir,
Bangalore

V. AUTHOR RIDDLES

1. Who is the shivering author?
2. Who is the quickest author?
3. Who is the richest author?
4. Who is the heaviest author?
5. Who is the tallest author?

— M.R. Nandhini,
Std.IX, Bharathi Vidya Bhavan,
Erode

A Name!

ANSWERS :

I. 1.Aristotle 2.Apastamba 3.Albert Einstein 4.Austria 5.All-Story 6.Acorn 7.Atlas 8.Anandbai Joshi 9.Ajit Wadekar 10.Abhimanyu

II. 8+8+8+88+888 = 1000

III. 1. a) Slaughter b) Kill 2. a) Fright b) Scare 3. a) Slit b) Cut 4. a) Boat b) Ship 5. a) Ring b) Peal 6. a) Go b) Leave 7. a) Chop b) Hew 8. a) Regimen b) Diet

IV. 1.Assist 2.Assert 3.Assume 4.Assassinate 5.Asset 6.Assault 7.Assimilate 8.Assent 9.Association 10.Assemble

V. 1.Shakespeare 2.Jonathan Swift 3.Goldsmith 4.Milton 5.Longfellow

The Old Order

Andre Agassi has decided to call it a day after twenty memorable years of professional tennis.

Agassi started very young, from his cradle literally! His father wanted him to be a great tennis player. He honed infant Andre's eye hand coordination by hanging a tennis ball over the cradle and even strapped a paddle to the baby's wrist!

Agassi turned professional at sixteen, winning his first top-level match a year later. As an up and coming player, Agassi sported a rebel image. He grew his hair, wore an earring and colourful shirts, when tennis had still to get out of its usual whites. He was flamboyant and cocky.

• Andre Agassi

Agassi entered history books in 1999, when he became the only male player to have ever won all four Grand Slam titles on different surfaces.

He has decided to spend quality time with his wife Stefi Graf and their two children.

Rahul Dravid's consistent performance over the last one year has earned him as many as four nominations for cricket's top honours. This includes the most prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Award for the ICC Cricketer of the Year.

The Indian captain was nominated along with 12 others for the coveted Cricketer of the Year award. He is also listed among nominees for Test Player, ODI Player and Captain of the Year awards. Dravid had bagged this award in 2004 when it was inaugurated.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting and Sri Lankan skipper Mahela Jayawardene are the only other cricketers who figure in four categories as per the list released by the ICC.

Irfan Pathan and Yuvraj Singh, the only two Indians apart from Dravid in the nominations, will be vying for the ODI Player of the Year award.

Aditi Iyer

Changeth...

Another person who will be hanging up his boots at the end of the season is the Formula One ace Michael Schumacher. Seven-time world champion Schumacher will retire at the end of this season.

The German made the announcement after winning the Italian Grand Prix, at Monza. Schumacher has broken almost every F1 record. This was the 90th victory in his career.

He will be remembered as one of the greatest, yet most controversial, drivers in the history of the sport. "What motor sport has given to me in more than 30 years, I have loved every moment of it. Words are not enough and whatever I say now will never fully express how much I love this fascinating world of motor sport and all it has given me. I am profoundly grateful for everything I have had", he said in an interview after the race.

* Michael Schumacher

Schumacher has dominated the sport since the death of Ayrton Senna in 1994 when he won his first world title.

Finn Kimi Raikkonen will replace him at Ferrari.

Martina Navratilova ended her career in style with an amazing 59th Grand Slam title as she and Bob Bryan won the mixed doubles title at the US Open. She went into Flushing Meadows saying it would be her last event as a professional player, and what a perfect send-off!

* Martina Navratilova

"I just wanted to keep inspiring people, the way they inspired me. I wanted to show people you can do great things regardless of your age, if you believe and go for it." Ace statement this one!

MKG and the

An elderly gentleman asked Gandhiji what he should do with the vagrant child who threw a stone and broke the hand of Bapuji's statue?

"Pick up the stone", said Bapuji "and tell him and raze the statue to the ground. Tell him to break the frame of every single picture of mine that adorns every Government Office. Tell him to wipe out my name from every street corner that displays it. And tell him to keep a place for me in his heart." These were the words conveyed by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi through Munna Bhai the number one thug of Mumbai!

Thugs do fall in love too! And Munna Bhai needed Gandhiji's help to win his ladylove's hand! "I'll help you in any way I can," said Bapuji, "But there is one thing that I will not do. I will not lie!"

"You mean you've never lied in the whole of your life," asked an astounded Munna Bhai, "Not even a teeny-weenie one? Just for fun?"

Aparna & Padmini

Gandhiji shook his head smiling. "Lying may provide a temporary respite, but telling the truth leads to a permanent solution."

"It needs strength to turn the other cheek," Bapuji said. The policeman slapped Munna Bhai who turned his other cheek to the policeman. Slapped again! Before Bapuji could say anything, Munna Bhai gave it back to him good and fast. "Gandhiji didn't tell me what to do if he slaps me again," thought Munna Bhai smiling to himself.

"Apologize to him", ordered Bapuji!

Bapuji gave him an idea, leading to the most comical scene you would ever have seen in a movie. Yes, the movie where Munna Bhai meets Mahatma Gandhi.

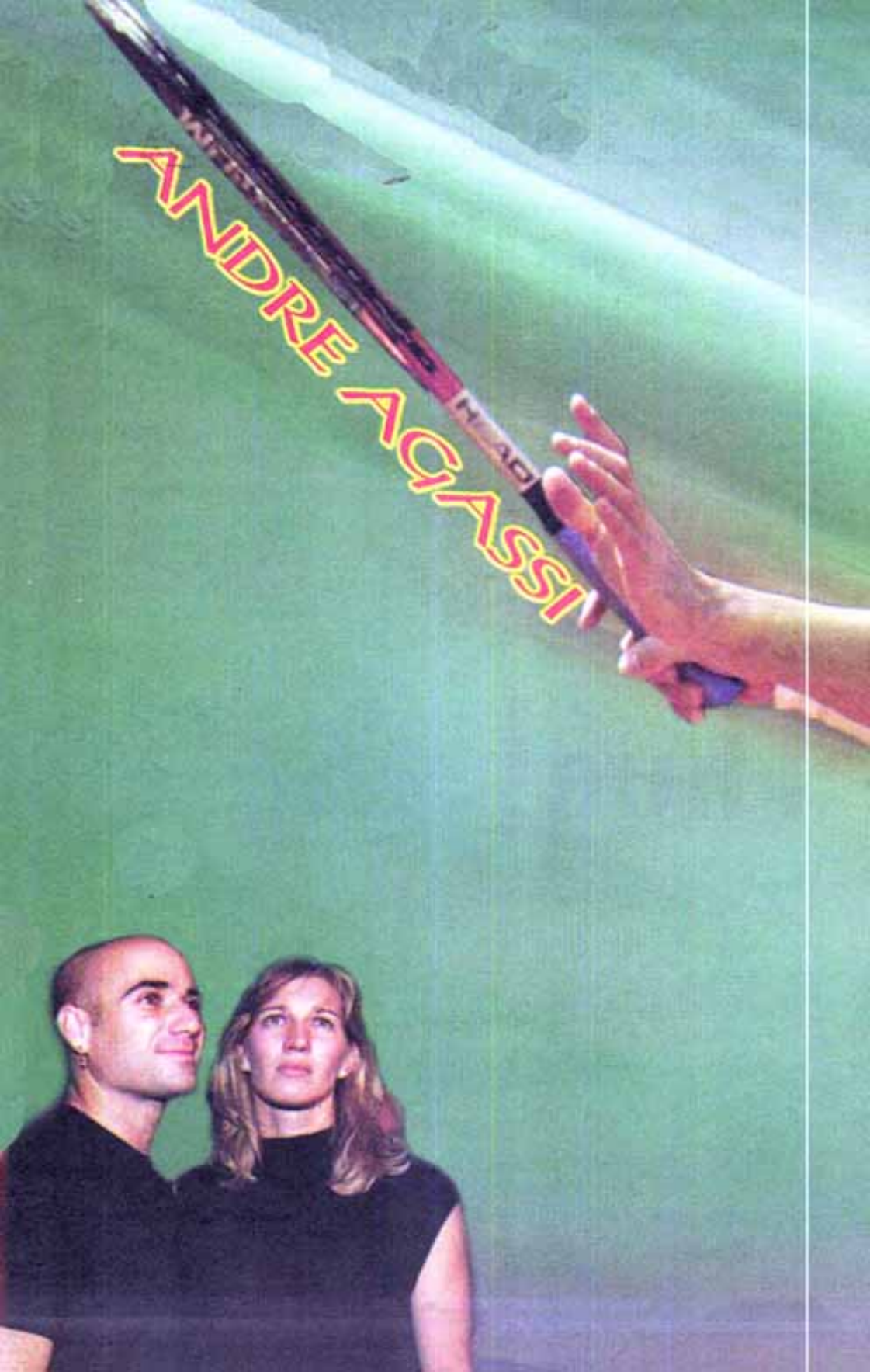
The relevance of Gandhiji's teaching in this modern era has been brought out through a hilarious, rib tickling, sidesplitting comedy. Take your friends, your family and your grand parents with you. If you don't know the language – why, take a translator too!

Thug!

Bapu, kya keh rahe hain aap?

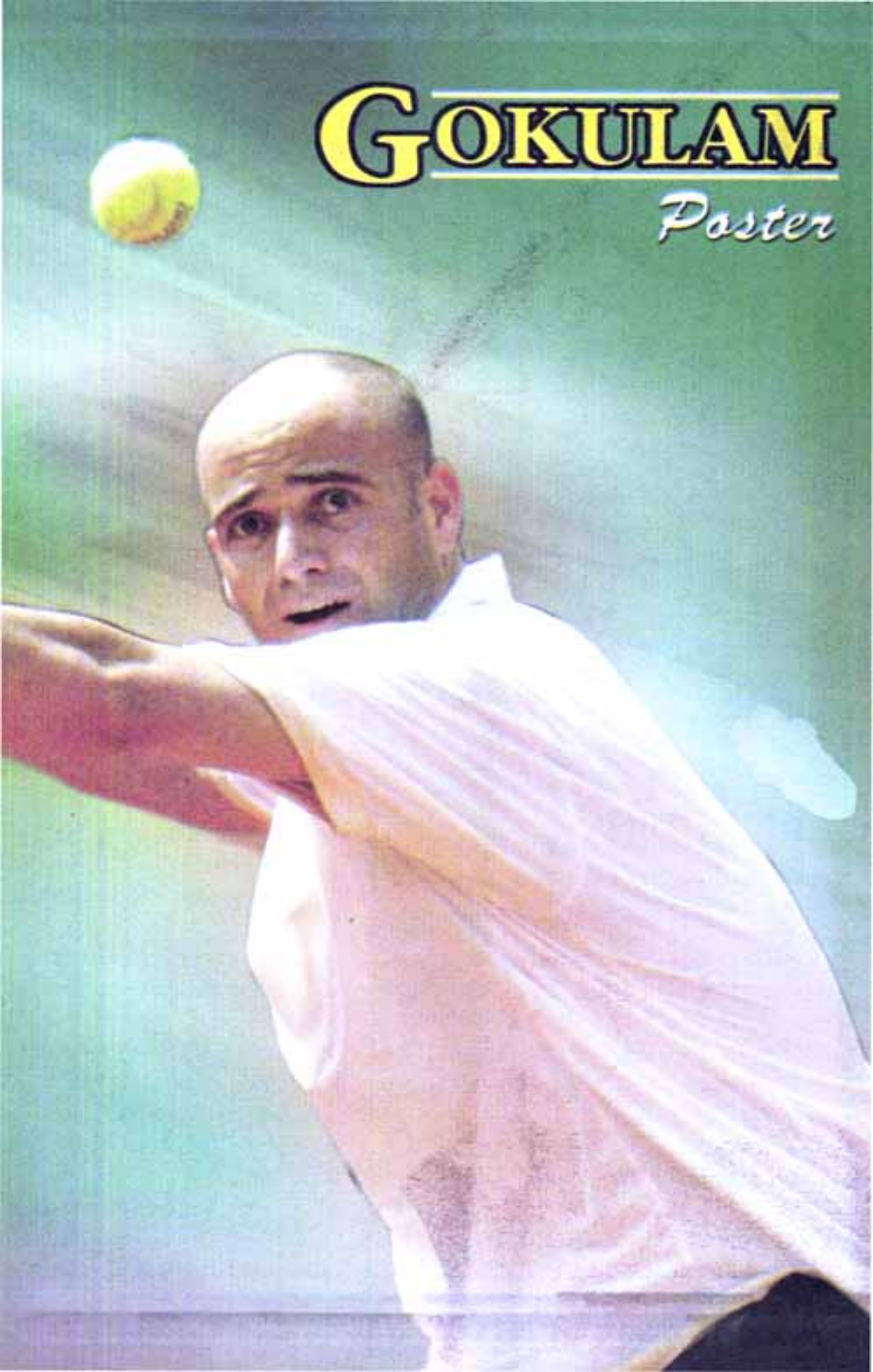
"Simple my dear son," said Bapuji. Remember Ahimsa? Satyagraha? They are powerful tools that shame the wrong doer into recognizing his fault."

"Bapuji," begged an old man, on the verge of tears "That govt. clerk is supposed to sign my pension papers. He wants a bribe. I don't want to give him one. But I've waited for two long years and can't wait any longer"


ANDRE AGASSI

GOKULAM

Poster



The A-Z of

Here are 26 questions on the Ramayana. The answers are in alphabetical order and not in more than two words.

1) Ravana's messenger who gave him the idea of kidnapping Sita.

2) Who ruled Ayodhya in Rama's name while he was in exile?

3) Lord Shiva had once presented a marvellous sword to Ravana. Name it.

4) This person was one among the eight ministers of Dasaratha's court.

5) Kaikeyi asked Dasaratha to send Raraan into — — — — —.

6) In the chronological order of Dasaratha's sons, what was the position of Shatrughna?

7) Who was king of Shringinerapura, the land of fishermen, during Rama's exile.

8) He is a monkey, but not an ordinary one at all; Rama's greatest devotee.

9) The other name of 'Meghanatha'.

10) The second son of Aruna, also the brother of Sampathy. He was killed by Ravana.

11) Who was the second son of Rama?

12) Name the person whom Hanuman met for the first time in Ravana's kingdom.

13) Who gave Kaikeyi the idea to send Rama to the forest?

14) Under whose leadership did the monkeys of Sugriva fight against Ravana?

15) Who was Lakshmana's wife?

16) It is only in the 'Ramayana'

that two different incarnations of Lord Vishnu meet each other. One is Sri Rama. Who is the other?

17) Kausalya was the eldest — — — — — of Ayodhya.

18) What was the original name of Valmiki, the author of Ramayana?

19) Name the first sage with whom Rama, Sita and Lakshmana stayed during their exile?

20) Who was the mother of Mareecha?

21) In which state is the birth place of Sri Rama located?

Ramayana

22) Name the only person whose residence was spared by Hanuman during his 'Lanka burning'.

23) In which direction did the monkeys move after they crossed the Sumeru mountain in search of Sita.

24) The ideas and pictures of stories like Ramayana were handed down due to this art.

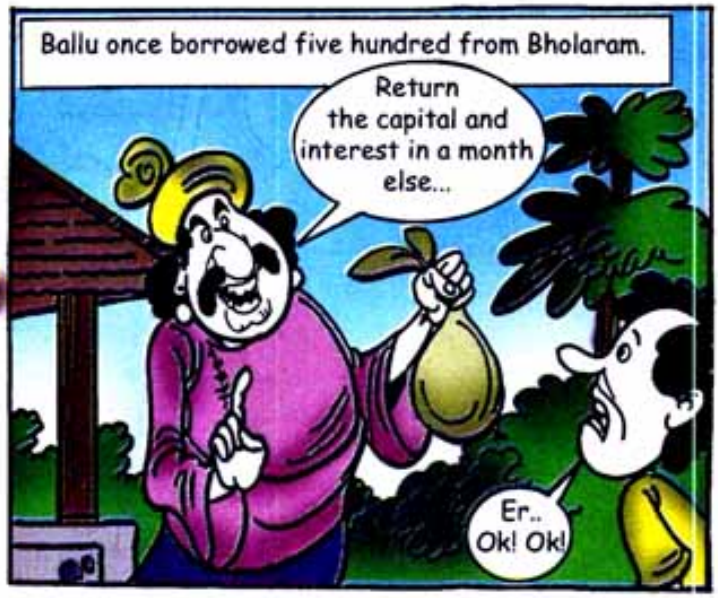
25) Who came in disguised as a sage to talk with Rama and requested him to sacrifice Lakshmana when he disturbed the talks?

26) Under Rama, Ayodhya reached the — — — — — — of its glory.

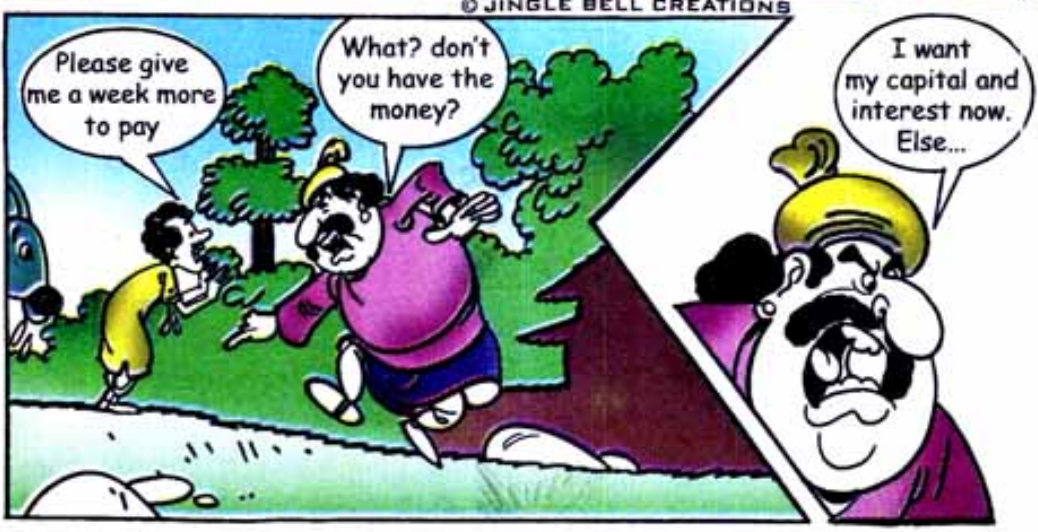
- H.Ganesh, Std.XII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya I,
Palakkad

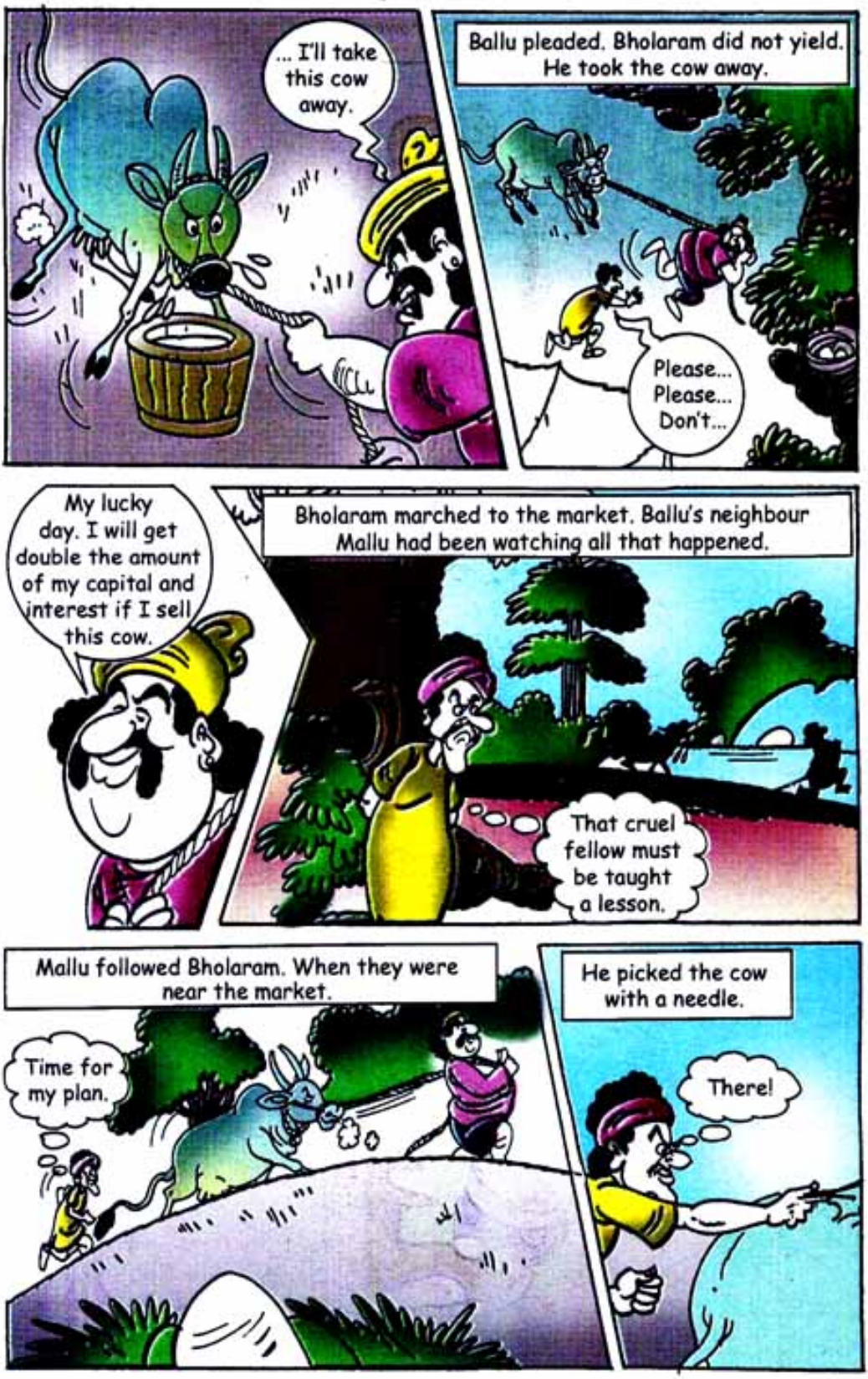
Answers : 1. Akamba 2.Bharath 3.Chandrahasa 4.Dhriti 5.Exile 6.Fourth 7.Guha 8.Hanuman 9.Indrajith 10.Jataayu 11.Kusha 12.Lanka Sree 13.Mandhara 14.Neela 15.Oormila 16.Parasurama 17.Queen 18.Ratnagara 19.Sharabhanga 20.Thadaka 21.Uttar Pradesh 22. Vibheeshana 23.West 24.Xylography 25.Yama 26.Zenith

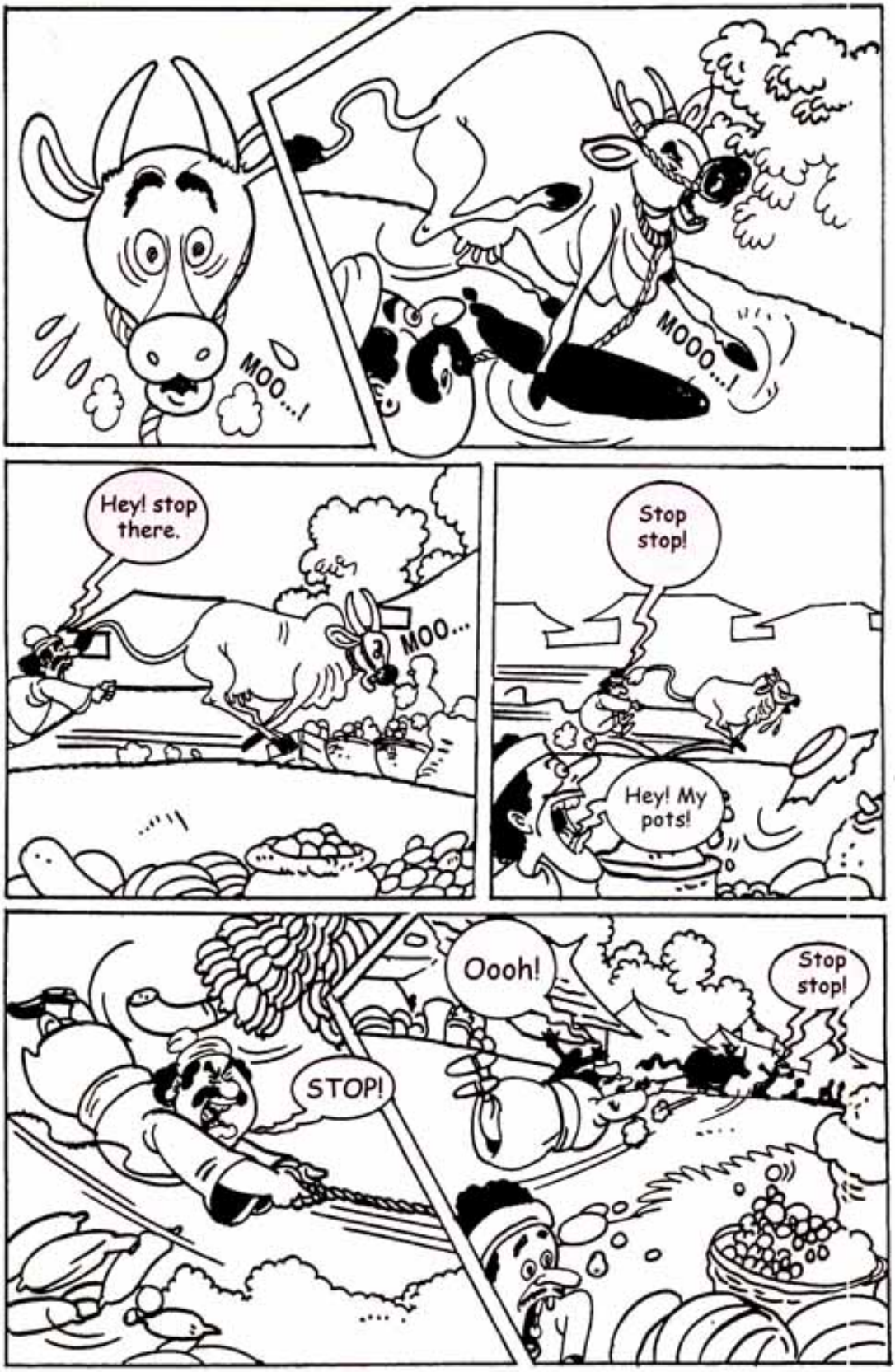
CAPITAL KICK!

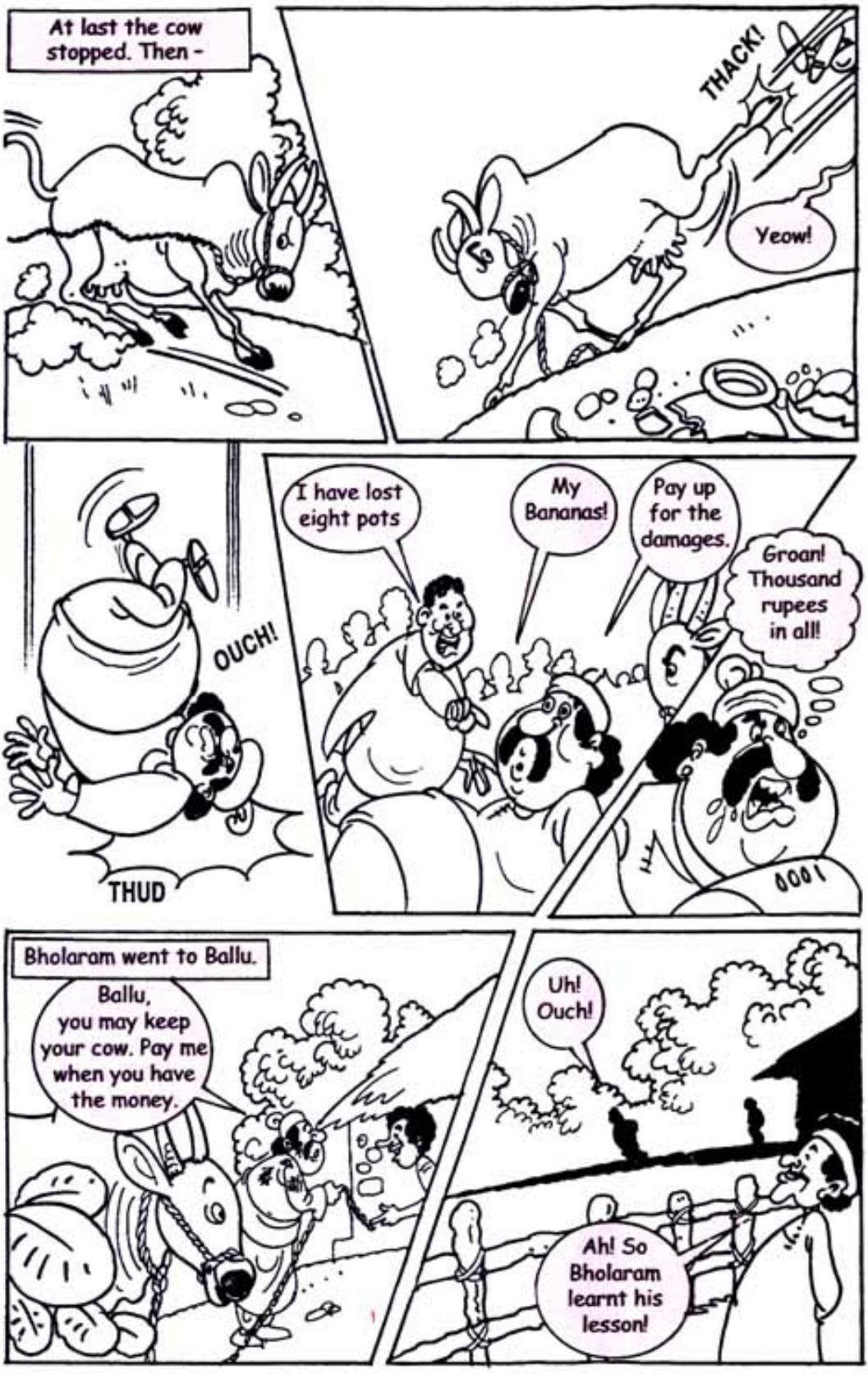


© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS




... I'll take this cow away.
Ballu pleaded. Bholaram did not yield. He took the cow away.
Please... Please... Don't...
My lucky day. I will get double the amount of my capital and interest if I sell this cow.
Bholaram marched to the market. Ballu's neighbour Mallu had been watching all that happened.
That cruel fellow must be taught a lesson.
Mallu followed Bholaram. When they were near the market.
Time for my plan.
He picked the cow with a needle.
There!


MOO...!
MOOO...!
Hey! stop there.
MOO...
Stop stop!
Hey! My pots!
Oooh!
Stop stop!
STOP!


At last the cow stopped. Then -
THACK!
Yeow!
OUCH!
THUD
I have lost eight pots
My Bananas!
Pay up for the damages.
Groan! Thousand rupees in all!
Bholaram went to Ballu.
Ballu, you may keep your cow. Pay me when you have the money.
Uh! Ouch!
Ah! So Bholaram learnt his lesson!

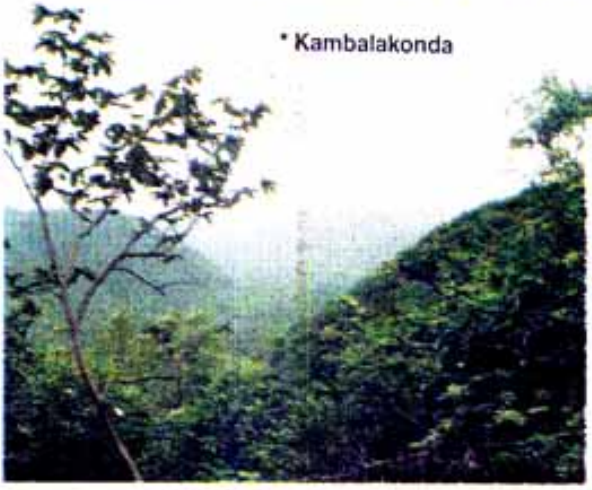
My favourite holiday spot now is Vishakapatnam otherwise called Vizag. I had the opportunity to visit this beautiful city last winter and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Vishakapatnam is located on the east coast and nestles in the Eastern Ghats.

furnace and a coil making plant. Bordering the plant is the seashore. The sea here is rather rough.

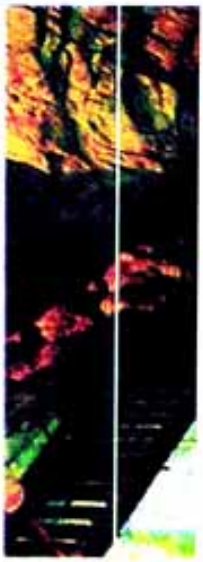
Around Vizag there are many interesting places to visit. There are many temples that I visited. Srikakulam is just sixty kilometers from

VISHAKAPATNAM

The Vishakapatnam Steel Plant integrates nineteen villages, covering about twenty-two thousand acres. The town is very well planned with a lot of greenery around it. I was lucky to have a chance to visit one



• Kambalakonda

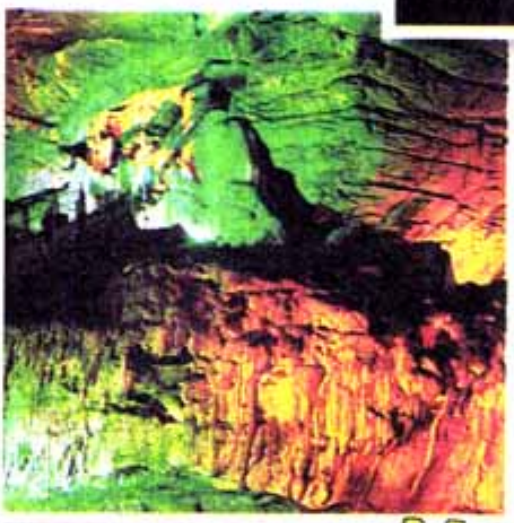


• View from Titanic Point Kailasagiri

Vizag, where the only temple dedicated to Lords Vishnu's 'Koorma Avatara' is found. Then there is Kailashagiri, a hill-top garden on the sea-front. I got to ride the rope car to the top. The view of the city from there is spectacular. It is one I can never forget. I went to have darshan of Lord Jagannath at the temple on the beach — a replica of the one in Puri.

Vizag boasts of the only Submarine Museum in the whole of South Asia.

*Sea front



* Borra Caves

This submarine is a real one which was decommissioned.

The Borra Caves which are a short distance away are absolutely breath taking. These limestone caves have the river flowing through them now.

The Kambalakonda is a natural reserve overlooking the ocean on one side. There is also a hiking trail. Just half an hour away from the centre of the city the peace and quiet here is priceless.

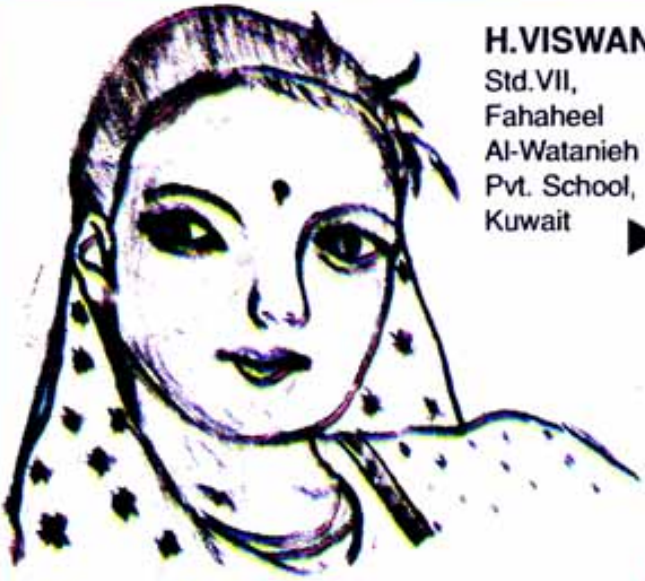
My Holiday Spot!

There is also the Shirdi Sai Baba temple nearby built in marble. At Shimachal, the idol of Lord Narasimha, is adorned with sandal paste every day of the year. It is only on 'Akshaya Trithiya' day every year that the idol can be viewed without the sandal paste.

There are so many more places to visit in and around Vishakapatnam. I would love to go there again.

- K.V.Hari Krishnan, Std.X, Sitadevi Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya, Chennai - 59

Charcoal &



H.VISWANATH,
Std.VII,
Fahaheel
Al-Watanieh Indian
Pvt. School,
Kuwait

R.SWETHA, Std.VIII,
Shri B.S. Mootha G.S.S. School,
Chennai

RAGHASRI RAGHAVAN,
Std.IV, Don Bosco School,
Dombivli (W).

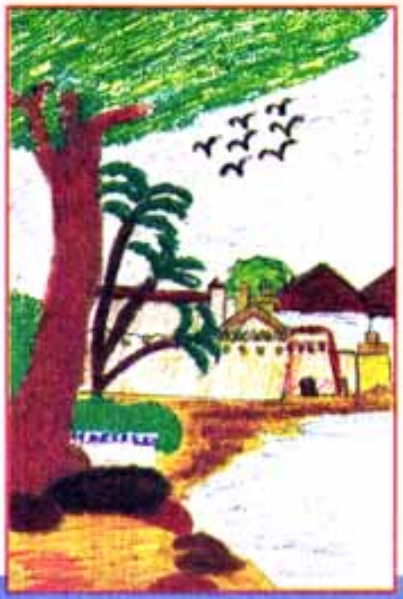
A.V. HARISHITHA,
Std.VI, Bharathiya Samskruthi
Vidya Peeta, Bangalore

▲ **C.MAHESWARI,** Std.IX,
Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya HSS, Chennai

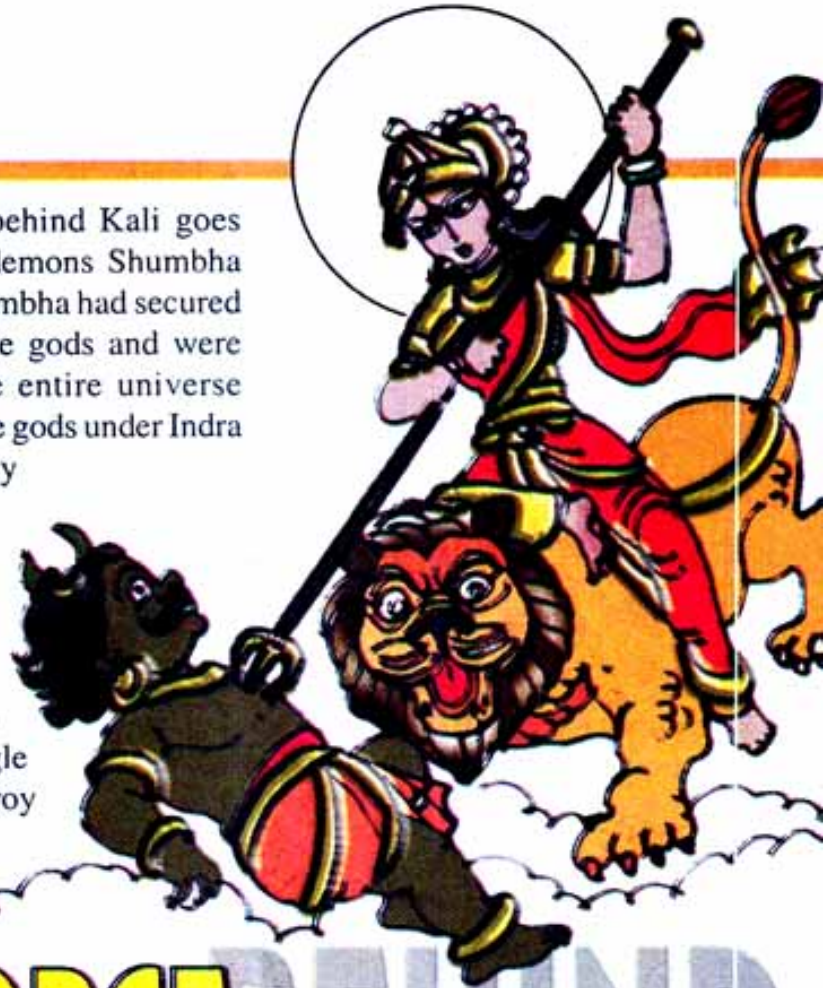
B. VENKATESH V.SHENOY,
Age 13, Chennai ▶

COLOUR

S.RAJA NANDHINI,
Std.VIII,
Arockia Matha Matric. Hr.
Sec. School, Trichy ▼



◀ **GLORIA PETER LAZAR,**
Std.VIII, The Greenfingers
School, Sholapur



The FORCE BEHIND KALI

The myth behind Kali goes that two demons Shumbha and Nishumbha had secured boons from all the gods and were reigning over the entire universe causing havoc. The gods under Indra rushed to the holy trinity seeking help to destroy these demons.

The preceptor of the gods however advised them stating that no single power could destroy them. He went on to say that a goddess with the combined powers of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati—Kali should be formed. This combined force would have the power to destroy the asuras. The gods and goddesses agreed and accordingly Badhra Kali emerged to destroy the evil. Bhadra in Sanskrit means good/auspicious.

The gods gave their weapons to Kali who was a fierce, courageous and powerful goddess who went on to destroy the demon clan and restore dharma. This is the significance of Navaratri.

Since Kali was

the combination of the consorts of the trinity, Durga is worshipped for the first three days, Lakshmi for the next three and Saraswati for the last three days.

There are however many versions in both the myths and the customs. What is important though is that good triumphs over evil. This is the essence of most of the myths concerning gods and goddesses.

— Avantika Kannan,
Std.XI, Vidya Mandir,
Chennai - 4

Arjun Kannan

Chimpanzees and Elves

Everyone loves to ride a bicycle. The word 'cycle' comes from Latin cyclus and Greek kuklos, meaning circle. 'Bi' of course means two. Two circular features make up the bicycle and hence the word.

All of you go on picnics with your classmates in school. Picnic comes from a mid 18th century French word 'pique-nique' which denoted a social event at which each guest contributed a share of the food.

We gift bouquets on different occasions. Bouquet comes from Old French 'bos' meaning wood. Originally a clump of trees was referred to as a bouquet.

One of the most intelligent primates is the chimpanzee. It comes from mid 18th century French word 'chimpanzé' and originally from Kikongo (a language spoken in central Africa). Perhaps chimpanzees were first spotted in Africa.

Elves appear in fables and fairy tales They are tiny creatures with magical powers. 'Elf' is related to German 'Alp' meaning nightmare. They were supposed to have caused nightmares to those who indulged in evil acts!

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

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Plane Facts!

1. Concorde, the fastest passenger plane of the world, which can travel at a speed of 2,333 km/h or twice the speed of sound, was withdrawn in 2003.

2. The fastest jet aircraft in the world is the Sukhoi-30, which can travel at 2500 km/h. India has been using these jets for the past five years.

3. Airbus aeroplane manufacturing company has created a new plane, the Airbus A380. It has got two full floors of seating and can accommodate 550 passengers. It is 73 metres long, 80 metres wide and 21 metres tall at the tail. The weight of Airbus is nearly 560 tonnes.

4. The Airbus A340 is the longest aeroplane which is being used, its length being 75 metres.

Source : Internet

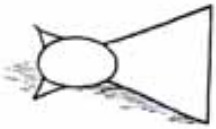
- Varun Adishankar,
Age 13,
Hyderabad

KITTY KEY CHAIN

Materials :
M-Seal – 1 packet
Acrylic Colours
Key Ring

Method :

Knead the M-Seal till it is soft and of uniform consistency. Pat it out flat. With the help of a knife cut out a circle and 3 triangles – 1 big one for the body and 2 small ones for the ears. Take a bit of M-Seal and roll it out to form a tail, about 5cm long. On the big triangle, attach the circle to the apex and press it down firmly. Attach the ears on the circle. Attach the tail to the base of the triangle. Paint the kitty in the colour of your choice. While it dries, take a bit of M-Seal and roll it into two small balls for the eyes. Fix them on the face after letting the paint dry. Put a dot of black paint on each eye. Make a hole between the ears so that the key ring can be attached. Pass the ring of the key chain through the head of the kitten. Your cute and cuddly key chain is ready.



— Aisiri, Std.VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar, Chennai.

BANGLE PEN STAND

Materials:
Attractive bangles and a piece of cardboard.

Method :

Cut the piece of cardboard to the size of the bangle. This forms the base of the pen stand. Stick the bangles one on top of the other till the required height is reached. Your attractive pen stand is ready.

— N. Sarasya, Std VI, P.S.B.B S.S. School, Chennai.

JAMMED FINGERS

This happened to me when I was five. I was studying for my exams. I had gone to the bathroom and while coming out the door banged shut with my finger caught in the hinge of the door. It hurt unbearably. I pushed open the door and saw the tip of my finger dangling. The pain was searing but I did not cry. My mother who was in the room looked up and was shocked at the sight. She wrapped my finger in a piece of clean cloth and rushed me to the hospital. I required four stitches. It was a truly terrifying experience.

— Varun Adishankar, Std.IX, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad

Scissors and

A HEART-BREAKING SCENE

Once a pigeon had laid eggs in our classroom. It would sit on the eggs and coo. During lunch break we would feed the pigeon a few grains of rice. One day we reached school to find a heart-breaking scene. The eggs lay smashed on the floor. The pigeon was fluttering over the bro-

A HAIR RAISING EXPERIENCE!

I enjoy curling my hair after a wash. I usually use a pencil. I do not know what came over me that day; I used a comb to curl my hair! My hair got truly tangled and I made matters worse by pulling at the comb. It only got tighter. After struggling for five minutes I went to my mother. She saw the mess and started laughing. She tried to untangle the hair. But after two hours she had managed only a handful of strands! What was more, my parents had to leave for a party and my mother had just half an hour to get dressed. My father finally got tired and said, "Cut her hair." That was exactly what I was afraid of. Snip, snip, snip went the scissors while I wailed, "I am going bald. I have to go to school tomorrow and everyone will laugh at me." I was left with a funny little flick, which I had to clip up to prevent from falling into my eye. Thankfully I was not bald!

— Purnima Mahesh,
Std.IX, Army Public School,
New Delhi.

Stitches

ken eggs making a peculiar sound. Perhaps she was crying. She flew away and returned once more to the broken eggs. She again flew away and did not return. I did not realise I was crying, the tears were flowing down my cheeks. That scene remained with me for many days. Days passed. One day I entered class and head a familiar sound. There on the shelf, was the pigeon sitting on two small eggs. I was happy. Some days later I heard a different sound. I was very excited to see two small heads peeping out of the eggs. Soon it was time for the babes to fly away. They flew out of our classroom but not out of my mind.

— Ganga Shreekumar,
Std.VII, Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Tripunithura.

Name : **S.Madhuri**
Age : 14
Address : H.No.1-8-57, Temple Alwal, Bolarum P.O. Secunderabad - 500 010
Hobbies : Reading novels, painting, drawing, dancing, singing and listening to music.

Name : **Sithara S.Shetty**
Age : 13
Address : Shiwalik House, J.N.V. Chara, Post Chara, Karkala Taluk, Karnataka.
Hobbies : Handicrafts, writing poems, playing sitar, gardening and reading

Name : **S.Aadi**
Age : 13
Address : A2, Manasa Flat, 30, Patel Street, Nehru Nagar, Chromepet, Chennai - 600 044.
Hobbies : Reading, watching TV, movies, and crafts.

Name : **G.Swetha**
Age : 9
Address : J205, S.PGL Apartments, 13/2 S.M. Road, Jalahalli (W), Bangalore - 560 015.
Hobbies : Music, reading, drawing, bhajans, collecting stamps and coins of various countries, story writing.

Name : **L.S.Kaushal,**
Age : 15
Address : Door No.11-143/2, Behind Gopal Krishna Kalyana Mandapam, Opp. Hotel Sindu International, Tiruchanur Road, Tirupati - 517 503. Chittoor (Dist.) Andhra Pradesh.
Hobbies : Chatting, surfing the net, playing tennis, cricket, watching sci-fi movies.

Name : **D.Sehgal**
Age : 13
Address : Roll No.4519, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar (PO), Udumalpet (TK), Coimbatore - 642 102.
Hobbies : Drawing, parasailing, canoeing, cycling, reading story books and comics and horse riding.

Distant Friends!

Name : **D.Saikiran**
Age : 14
Address : Maurya House, Sainik School, Korukonda, Vizianagaram Dist. Andhra Pradesh.

Hobbies : Playing TT, reading Harry Potter and other novels, poetry, playing tabla.

Name : **Divya Rao**
Age : 15
Address : 'Ramanath' HIG-62, HUDCO Colony, Manipal - 576 104.
Hobbies : Reading, writing, making friends, playing on my PC, listening to music and watching TV.

Name : **Yash Agarwal**
Age : 11
Address : 3B, Vidhyalaya Road, Salem - 7
Hobbies : Visting places, Taking photos, drawing, painting, cycling, reading Gokulam, playing football, computer games, badminton, making friends, quizzes.

Name : **Swathi Hari Narayanan**
Age : 14
Address : F-2/401, Highland Park, Jai Shastri Nagar, Mulund (W), Mumbai - 400 082.
Hobbies : Reading Harry Potter series, singing, painting, reading comics and magazines, craft, fashion designing.

HELICOPTER

Aazhi

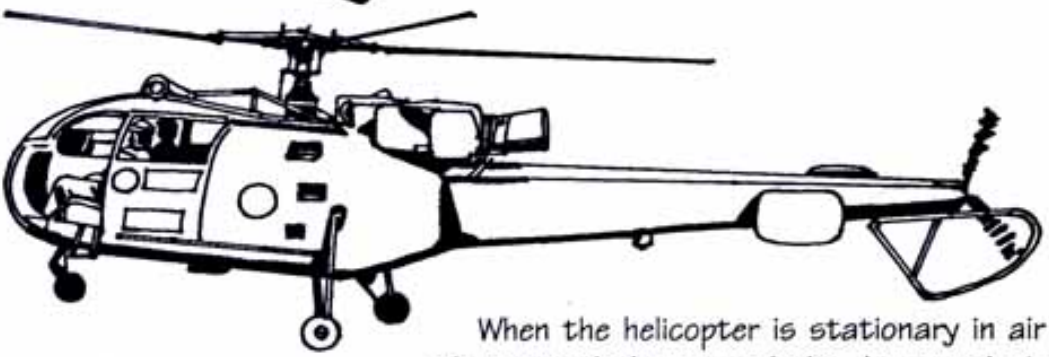
The helicopter was invented by Igor Sikorsky. He was born in Russia on 25th May, 1889. He attempted to make a flying machine just like the ones featured in books. He was successful in 1939 at the age of 50. The 75 horsepower flying machine he had made was airborne for a full hundred seconds!

Sikorsky designed the helicopter with a fly in mind, so that it could land and take off from anywhere – be it rooftops, terraces, platforms or the deck of a ship. The VS300 was the first helicopter on which today's machines are based. Sikorsky also invented aeroplanes with multiple engines, aircrafts and helicopters.

How does the helicopter operate? It does not have wings like the aeroplane. It has propeller with narrow blades called rotor fixed on the roof of the machine. Because the blades are bent outwards, they rotate at very high speeds. This causes the air to rise. As a result the air pressure above the aircraft decreases while it increases below the machine, thereby lifting it.

In 1919, Sikorsky moved to America. It was here that he built the helicopter. He died on 26 October, 1972, at the age of eighty-three.

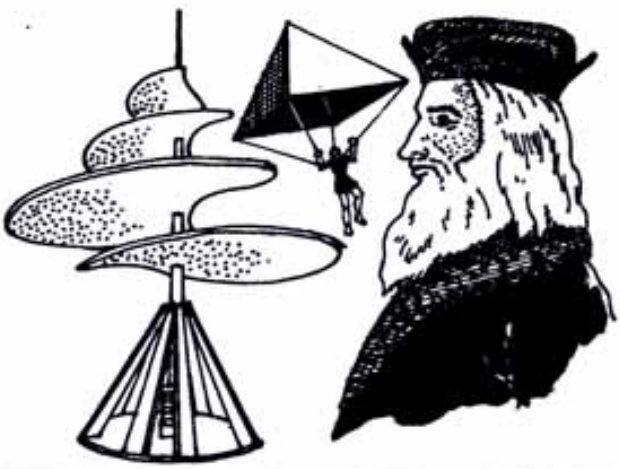
Some helicopters have two rotors. Of these there are some that have a large rotor overhead and a smaller one at the tail. This enables the helicopter to remain stationary in the air.



When the helicopter is stationary in air the upward thrust and the downward air thrust of the rotor is equal. When the speed of the rotor is reduced the helicopter will gently descend.

The speed of the helicopter is nearly 150 kmph much less than the speed of an aeroplane. Though it costs more it is also more versatile. It does not require a runway, and so can be put to use anywhere – on mountaintops, seas, and islands. It is also useful in flood and quake hit regions for rescue work. Helicopters are used to transport vehicles, small bridges and food and also to carry the wounded in times of wars, and to spray pesticides.

Leonardo da Vinci, the Italian painter was also a famous discoverer and inventor. He had invented the helicopter in the 1500s. But it was of no use since it did not have an engine. He was the one to invent the parachute.

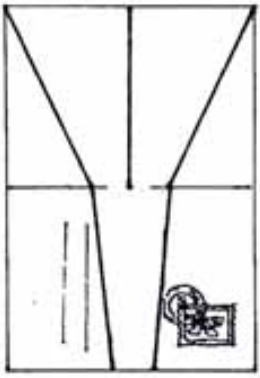


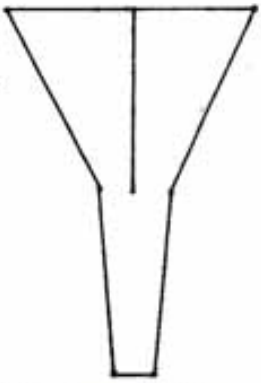
The Goodyear Aircraft Corporation has manufactured a helicopter called the 'gizmo'. This is a single seater which can be used for short distances.

The Gyredyne Company has also manufactured a single seat helicopter called the Rotor Cycle. This machine too, is suitable only for short distances.

Here is how you can make a simple helicopter. All you need is an old postcard.

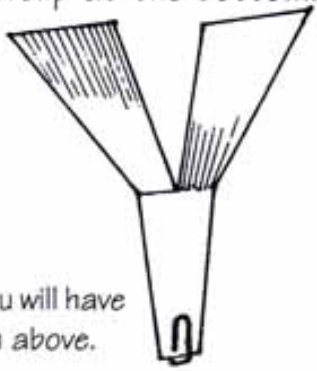
1) Draw lines as shown in the diagram below.





2) Cut along the lines and you will have a 'Y' shaped piece as shown above.

3) Fold the two blades, on towards you and one away. Anchor the piece with a paperclip at the bottom.



4) Stand on a chair or at the top of the stairs and drop it. It will whir like the rotor of the helicopter and descend gently as it spins. You can have fun.

P	R	U	P	T	A	R	A	H	B	E
A	L	A	P	E	R	I	Y	A	R	T
H	F	N	A	G	A	R	H	O	L	E
N	Y	T	N	I	E	X	B	S	I	A
A	S	T	E	R	L	M	A	P	E	S
K	A	Z	I	R	A	N	G	A	N	I
E	G	I	K	H	L	P	S	T	V	Q
O	T	E	T	T	E	B	O	C	E	U
G	I	N	A	R	K	A	L	L	A	X
S	A	R	I	S	K	A	N	N	A	T
R	U	P	I	H	D	N	A	B	I	R

Gogo's Grid - 3

Spot the names of India's wildlife and bird sanctuaries. There are ten of them. The names are only in straight lines—horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forward or backward. This grid was sent by **Raghu Kartik Sudan** of Chennai.

Turn the page to fill this Grid contest form and post it to us.

Gogo's Grid -2

I	A	B	O	E	C	N	A	R	E	A	B
N	O	D	C	S	P	O	N	T	I	S	H
A	S	P	A	I	N	G	M	P	N	J	U
D	A	N	I	K	F	H	E	A	A	O	T
I	L	R	E	T	A	V	X	P	L	Y	A
B	H	P	X	B	D	C	I	U	N	E	N
O	A	O	M	Z	O	A	C	B	Y	O	X
L	I	R	N	J	Y	N	O	N	U	G	K
I	W	M	X	N	E	Z	E	L	R	N	D
V	E	A	E	L	T	P	Y	G	E	R	P
I	R	K	I	Z	L	A	D	N	P	O	T
A	I	B	M	A	Z	E	A	B	M	X	C

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. Siddharth Kumar Behera, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Rourkela
2. Asha Latha .K Vel's Vidyashram, Chennai
3. A. Mythili, Sri Ramakrishna Matric.Hr.Sec.School, Arcot
4. Shruthi Rangamani, GRT. Matric.Vidyalaya, Chennai
5. G.E.Dhivya, Saraswathi Matric. School, Urappakam

Gogo's Grid - 3

ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 12.10.2006

Letter Box

✉ I have been a regular reader of Gokulam for the past six years. Every month I eagerly await the magazine. Recently my name was published in the pen-pals page. I now have a pen pal from Orissa. Thank you Gokulam!

— Preity G. Iyer,
Age 17, Nagpur

✉ Although I do not subscribe to it, I regularly buy Gokulam from the book stall every single month. I have collected 120 issues since 1995. Please make it a fortnightly.

— Ancita Mickeal,
Age 13, Navi Mumbai

✉ I have read in 'Grandmaworm' that many pen-pals do not reply. It must be realised that it is not possible for one to reply to all the letters. I, for instance, received 31 letters between January and July this year! Replying to all is quite problematic. I reply to those that I find appealing.

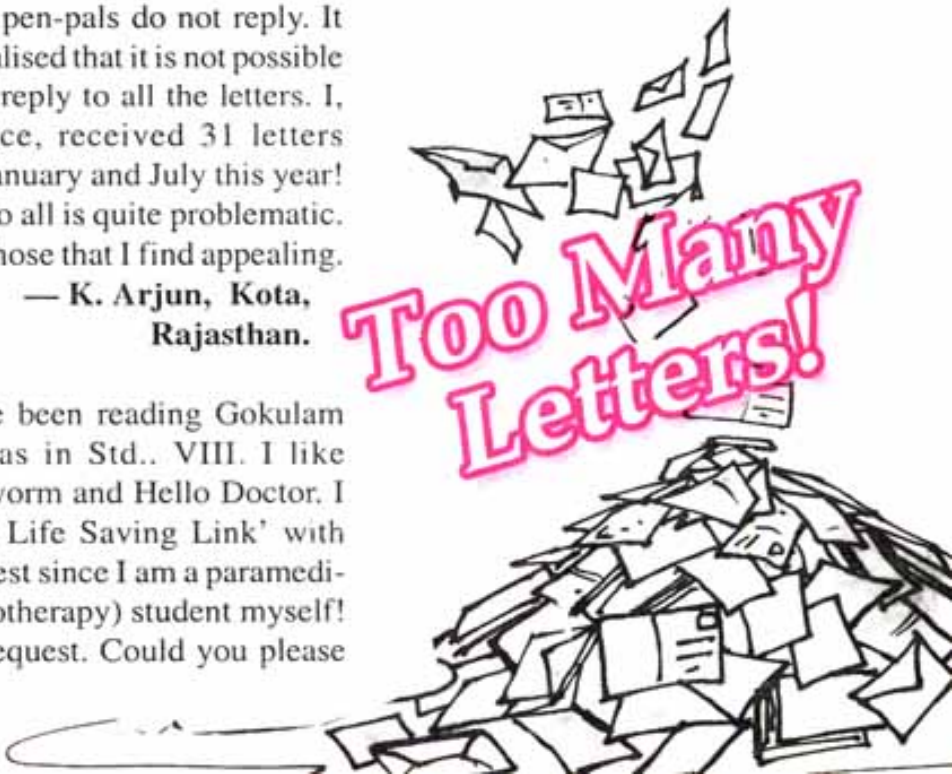
— K. Arjun, Kota,
Rajasthan.

✉ I have been reading Gokulam since I was in Std.. VIII. I like Grandmaworm and Hello Doctor. I read 'The Life Saving Link' with great interest since I am a paramedical (physiotherapy) student myself! I have a request. Could you please mention the gender of the pen-pal? It is difficult to identify the gender by the name and it will help when composing the letter.

— R. Srihari, II yr.,
A.S.M.College of Paramedical
Sciences, Chennai.

✉ I find Gokulam very interesting. My favourites are Tinku, Grandma worm, Hello Doctor and Gogo's Grid. My cousin who visited me recently read it and is now a fan of this magazine!

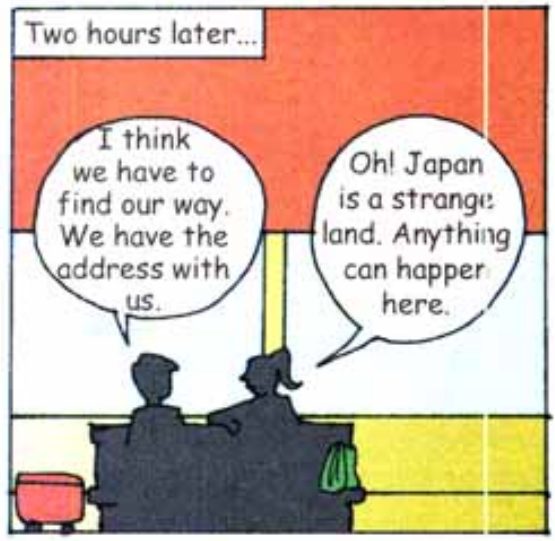
— Aishwarya Mohan,
Age 14, Salem



DETECTIVE DUMPY 4

Dumpy goes to Japan

Story : Marudhan
Pictures : Pillai



Don't worry Dolly. Come! We'll explore Tokyo.
Hey where's your handbag?
Oops! Dumpy, I think I have lost it.
Okay, Okay, relax. You must have let it slip. Lets go back to the airport.
Oh no, Dumpy! I have kept the address inside my bag. Now, we are totally lost.
Someone must have picked up the bag.
What do we do now? How can we find the address? We can't participate in the competition!
Come let us ask someone for help
Excuse me sir. We are from India. We are lost.
We can't understand each other.
Sports! Sports!
Sports??
We are Chess players from India, to participate in a tournament.

Yes... Yes...
T..ournament?
There. Match. Go.
Thank you sir.
At last we know the place of the event.
Come let's rush.
Oh no! This is a foot ball tournament. We are lost again.
Don't worry. I've got an idea.
Dumpy searches his bag...
Good. I have some paper and a pen
What are you doing Dumpy?

Dumpy glues the sheets of paper together and writes...
WE ARE FROM INDIA. WE ARE HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT. PLEASE HELP US
The TV camera pans the crowd and Dumpy's make-shift banner!
SHONEN TV
That's it. Now we ae safe. People will come and pick us up.
Wonder-ful idea Dumpy!
An hour later...
Sorry Dumpy! Sorry Dolly! I saw you on TV. I will take you to the rest house. You can attend the tournament tomorrow.
Next : Dolly is kidnapped.

The Spreading Tentacles of TERRORISM

Judgement was delivered recently in the Mumbai blast case of 1993. Four persons belonging to the Memon family were found guilty. Verdicts on the others involved will be issued in stages. It has taken thirteen years for a special court to deliver a partial judgement. Meanwhile there have been two other serial blasts; one in Mumbai suburban trains and another in Malegaon recently. The latter took a toll of 31 lives and more than a hundred were injured. No wonder a U.S. Government report says that delays in investigations, trial and punishment encourages extremists in India!

* * *

There has been a major arms haul in Andhra Pradesh. The police in that state acted on a tip off from Ahmedabad and recovered hundreds of rocket launchers and rocket shells. Investigations revealed that the weapons were produced in Chennai and transported to Mahabub Nagar. It's high time top leaders from all over India got together and chalked out a plan to contain terrorism.

* * *

Tamilnadu has given up the satellite township scheme, soon after it was conceived. Some of the alliance partners particularly the PMK did not lend support to the idea and the minority DMK government in power had to yield. Other 'social welfare' schemes like free colour TVs; rice at Rs.2/- a kilo; two acres of land to the landless etc. are being implemented — some in stages. Opposition ADMK accuses that these schemes are intended to benefit only DMK party workers! It also says that Chikungunya, a viral infection being spread by mosquitos has affected thousands and in spite of the heavy death toll, the DMK government is not doing enough to contain the disease.

M.Varsha celebrates her 10th birthday on October 15.

Many more happy returns of the day. May God's choicest blessings to showered on you, dear sister. May you progress to shine just like Dr. Abdul Kalam.

— M.Vidya, Salem

R.Priyanka, celebrates her 14th birthday on October 29.

"In LIFE, 'F' stands for friend. Without a friend, Life becomes a lie."

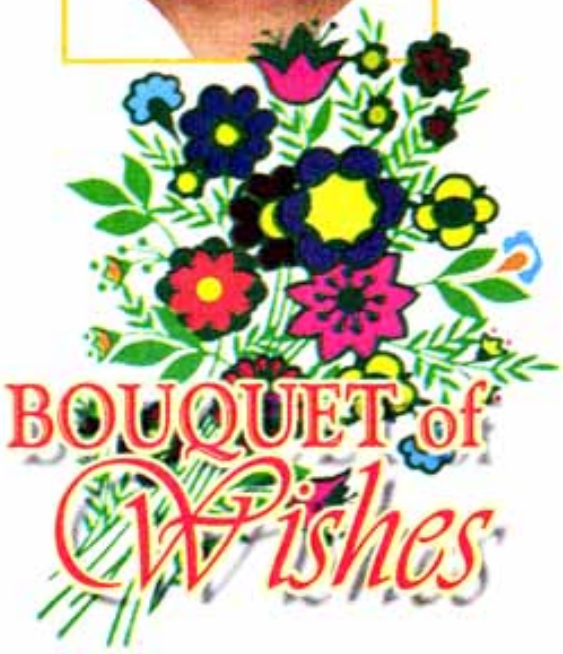
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

— Mom, Nove, Sharmila, Rabi, Karthick and friends!

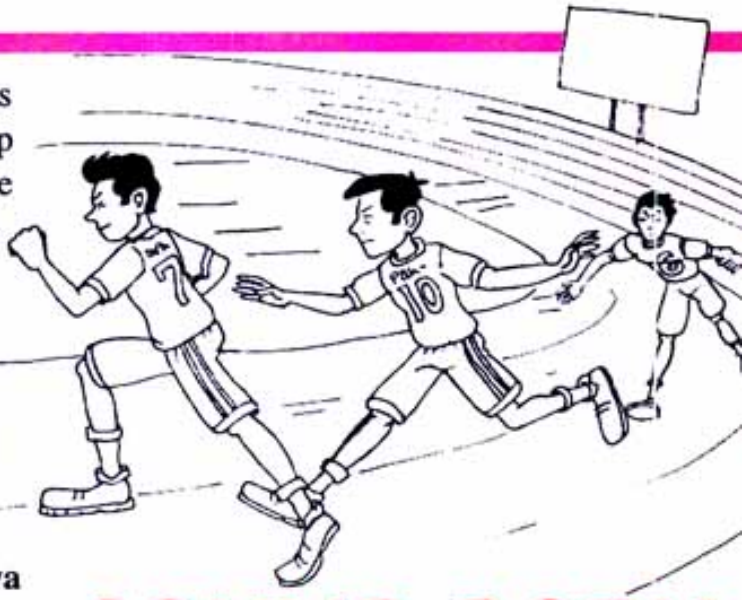
R. Rekha celebrates her 13th birthday on October 20.

Amma and Appa join me in wishing you a very happy birthday dear Rekha, and lots of love.

— R.Remya, Attingal



SOUND BODY...



Sports and academics are both necessary to keep mind and body fit. One who is physically strong can take up sports later in life. At the same time basic education is very necessary. It depends on the individual and hence should not be forced.

— S. Bharath, Std. IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya (CISF) Thakkolam.

It would not be wrong to say that sports have gained importance in the world today. However, in my view, sports should not be given as much importance as academics. It is needed just so the students can be physically fit. Academics is primary, sports must be secondary.

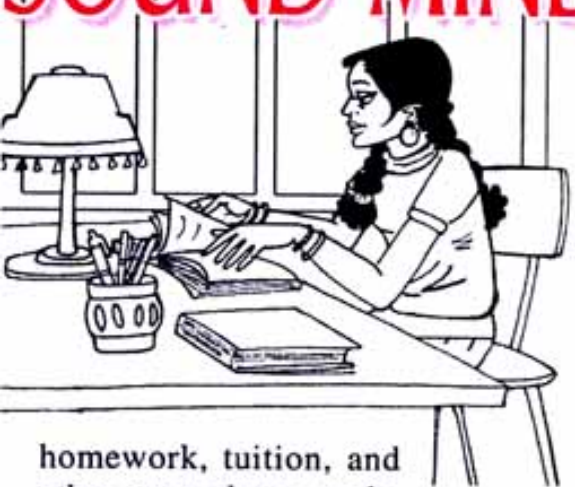
— B. Sanjay Kumar Patel, Std. XII, Carmel Mat.Hr.Sec.School, Erode.

'Work while you work and play while you play.' This adage brings out the value of sports and academics in life. While some parents drive their children in the endless circle of early morning studies, school, tuitions, and home work, others wish to make their children Tendulkars and P.T. Ushas and Amrithrajs. Both are extremes. Both need to be given equal importance. Arguing which is better is like asking which eye is more important.

— K Vasanth, Std. VII, Jawahar Hr. Sec. School, Neyveli.

Sports are as important as academics especially in school. Regular participation in sporting activities enhances the physical and mental health of the child and inculcates team spirit and sportsmanship. Moreover it helps relax a restless mind. Recollecting his childhood, in "My Experiments with Truth," Gandhiji regrets the neglect of sports during his

SOUND MIND



schooling days. He opines that sports should enjoy a commendable rank in the curriculum.

— M. Sneha, Std. X
St. Anne's Girls' High School,
Bangalore.

A healthy mind and healthy body keep children in good stead. Now-a-days sports take the back seat in the curriculum. Class work, homework, tuition, and other extra classes make children a tired lot. If sports are given equal importance, students can improve their health and enjoy life.

— J.Vijayalakshmi, Std. IV,
Devi Mat. Hr. Sec. School,
Palani.

Yes, sports are as important as academics. In most parts of our country (especially in the south) almost everyone is of the opinion that sports is inferior to academics and that being a businessman or an engineer or a doctor is useful and more worthwhile than being a sportsman. This is a rather incorrect notion. Even though sports is considered very important at national level, at school level it is not given much importance. The fact is most children in the world like playing more than studying. I strongly believe that sports and academics have to be looked upon equally.

— B.Venkatram, Std -IX ,
Apeejay School,
Navi Mumbai

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

Should agricultural land be turned into satellite towns?"

Send us your views by 12.10.2006. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

The Case of the Cupboard

Geetha overcame her nervousness in a few seconds. 'I am not afraid of this police officer' she said to herself, 'however highly placed he may be. After all I didn't say anything wrong or untrue!' She put up a brave face and went near the Commissioner of Police.

He took her hand in his. "Do you read Enid Blyton?"

"Ofcourse I do", said Geetha. "Any girl my age naturally would."

CoP smiled at her. "That explains your eagerness to solve crimes and the mysteries surrounding them. Now let me ask you, how much do you know about cupboard pullers?"

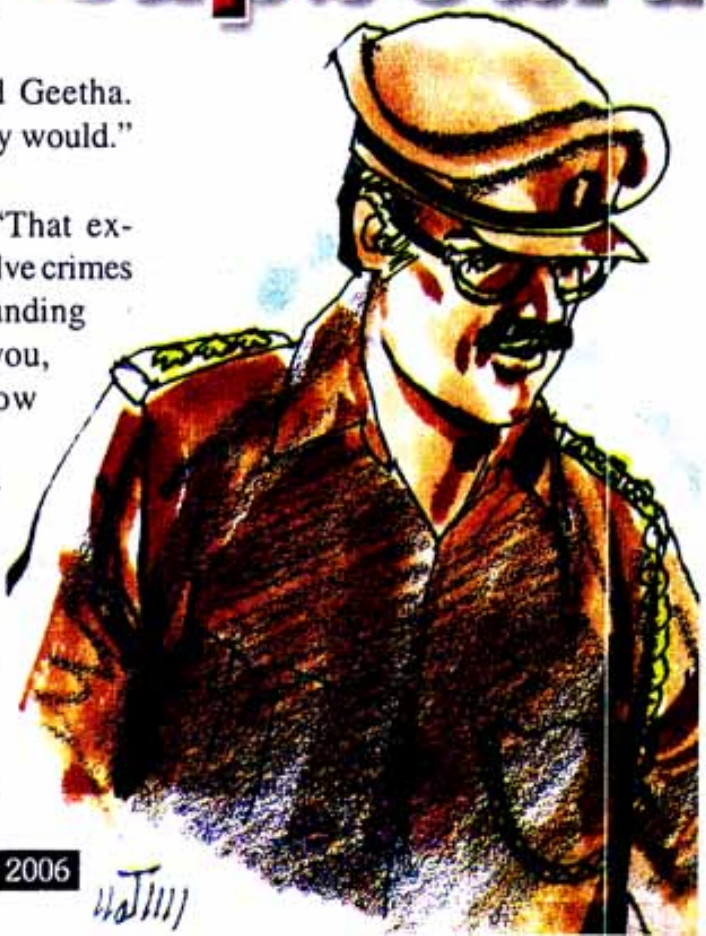
"Not much, really", admitted Geetha.

"You tell us", said Suriya.

"Okay, listen carefully", began the commissioner. "There were similar burglaries in Chennai some months back. The thief was named "Bureau Puller". There, the Tamils usually refer to their cupboards as bureaus. No one was arrested. The case is still unsolved."

"Is it the same person?" asked a curious Rita.

"May be; but I have my doubts too", said CoP.



Serial - Chapter 4

Vijayan

"Why doubt the obvious?" asked Geetha now very much emboldened.

"He may be a copy cat!"

"A copy cat? We have plenty of them at school", laughed Suriya.

Mukherjee smiled at the girls. "This chap, I feel is an impostor. He wants the police to think that it is someone from Chennai, who has shifted his operations to Bangaluru."

"Diversionary tactics", said Geetha.

Mukherjee rose from the chair he was seated. He addressed Goutham, Goutham and said in a low voice : "Take care of the girls, Goutham. They seem to be carried away with mystery stories and TV thriller serials."

When he was about to get into the car the girls gathered around him again.

"Uncle can we help in some way or other?"

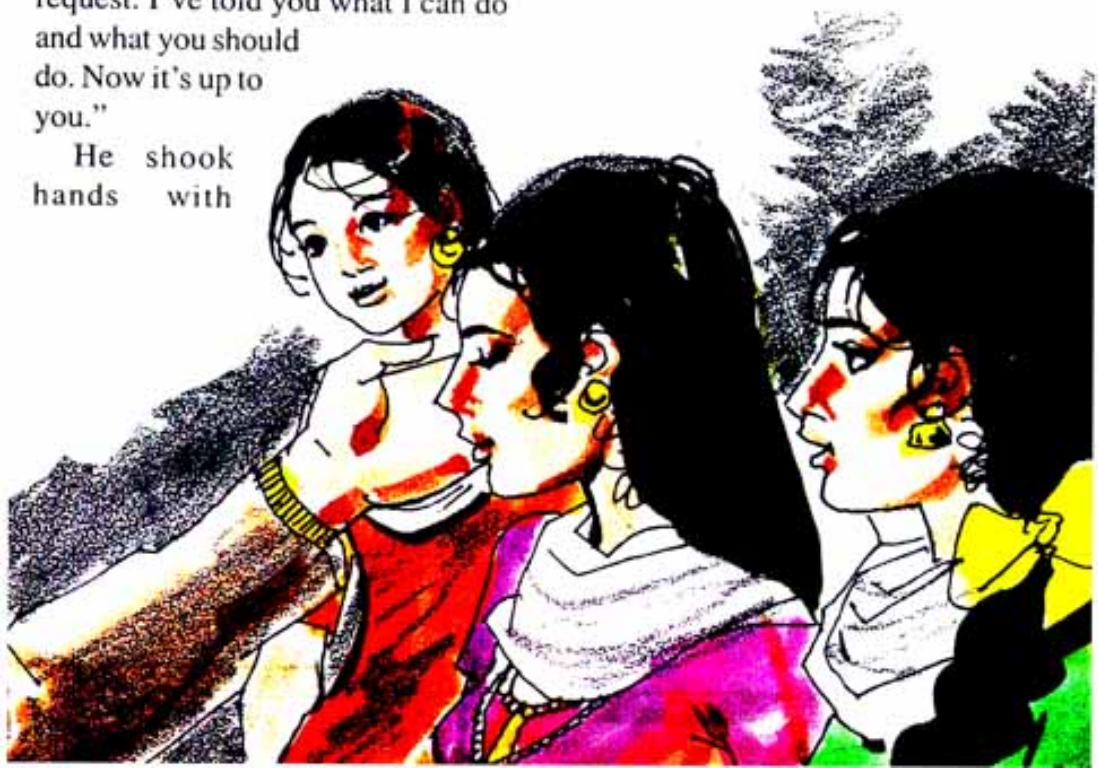
Mukherjee pulled at Geetha's ear affectionately. "Thanks for the offer. But I can't ask boys and girls to help the police. It's dangerous and also against the law."

He sat in the car and then, as though he was having a second

Puller

"I came here personally at Sastry's request. I've told you what I can do and what you should do. Now it's up to you."

He shook hands with



thought, he pulled out a visiting card from his wallet and gave it to Geetha. "This has my official and residential addresses, as well as phone numbers. If you girls really want to help, take copies of this and distribute among the residents of this colony. If anyone is suspicious about anything they can inform me at once. Any tip-off would be helpful."

"Okay; we will do that", said Rita.

"But you have not answered our earlier question", reminded Suriya.

"Refresh my memory, young lady", requested Mukherjee.

"Why do you think that the burglar is not the same one who struck in Chennai?"

CoP patted Suriya on her cheek. "Because a sensible burglar will not strike in the same locality more than once. The earlier burglaries in Chennai were in different places. He kept moving from one remote colony to another, far away from each other. He studied the residents and their habits, as also their surroundings. He waited for an opportune time. But here the burglar has struck twice within a month and that too in adjacent streets. He's an amateur and it looks as though he was carried away by the success of his first attempt."

"So, you conclude he is a local person? He belongs to this colony?"

"Tut, tut! I didn't say anything like that. Don't jump to conclusions. But I must warn you. The man is clever. He probably wore cheap plastic gloves and covered his face with a rubber mask. He may be armed and if accosted he will become desperate. So, young ladies, be careful; don't do anything stupid!"

"You can trust us on that point," said Geetha. "We are not stupid!"

"We will be careful ofcourse and brave! We will find him for you", said Rita.

"No, no! you shouldn't do that", said Mukherjee. "It's too much of a risk. Leave it to the elders and to the police department."

The girls were silent. They didn't want to give him an assurance or the subject.

Mukherjee sighed. "Look", he said. "The residents of this colony are functioning like isolated islands. Bring them together and that by itself would be a great help." He drove away.

Teacher : 'I have failed in my exam' what 'tense' is this?

Student : Future tense.

- Pooja S.Bhat, Std.IX, The Oxford Senior Sec. School, Bangalore

That night Rita woke up to the sound of a siren. She phoned Geetha. She knew that Geetha always slept with the cordless near her pillow.

"Do you hear that?"

"Yes, it is the police on their beat", replied Geetha. "Mukherjee is true to his word. Go back to sleep nothing to worry."

"But we have to find him!"

"We have to wait for the opportune time", said Geetha. "Right now with all this police activity the scoundrel will surely lie low!"

The peace of mind that the residents of Basavappa colony enjoyed did not last long. After some time, just as Mukherjee had said, the police cars stopped coming, No sirens were heard at night. "They've been diverted to some other locality" moaned Goutham. Also his efforts at forming an association did not fructify. This made him sad and he worried a lot.

The residents were reluctant to part with twenty fire rupees a month. Only a few agreed. "Why should we pay?" argued a vociferous Nagaraj. "We pay taxes, don't we? It is the duty of the government to provide protection to us. If we are going to look after ourselves by appointing security guards, where is the need for an elaborate police department?"

Rita felt like asking Nagaraj to shut up; but the girls — all three of them—had been given strict instructions by Goutham not to poke their noses during the discussion for an association. So she could not even explain to Nagaraj that the yearly taxes he pays doesn't cover even a single day's salary of one policeman. She hadn't forgotten what Mukherjee had said on the subject.

"The police are soo...o inefficient! Unsolved cases are just piling up...." Nagaraj ranted on.

'Brave words indeed for a lame man like him', thought Geetha.

Just then she noted something. Nagaraj who always walked with a limp, inevitably carried a stout walking stick with him and the top of it was curved like a hook! It also had some wood chipped off at the handle and cold steel could be seen inside!

(To be continued)

Father : I am proud of you, son.

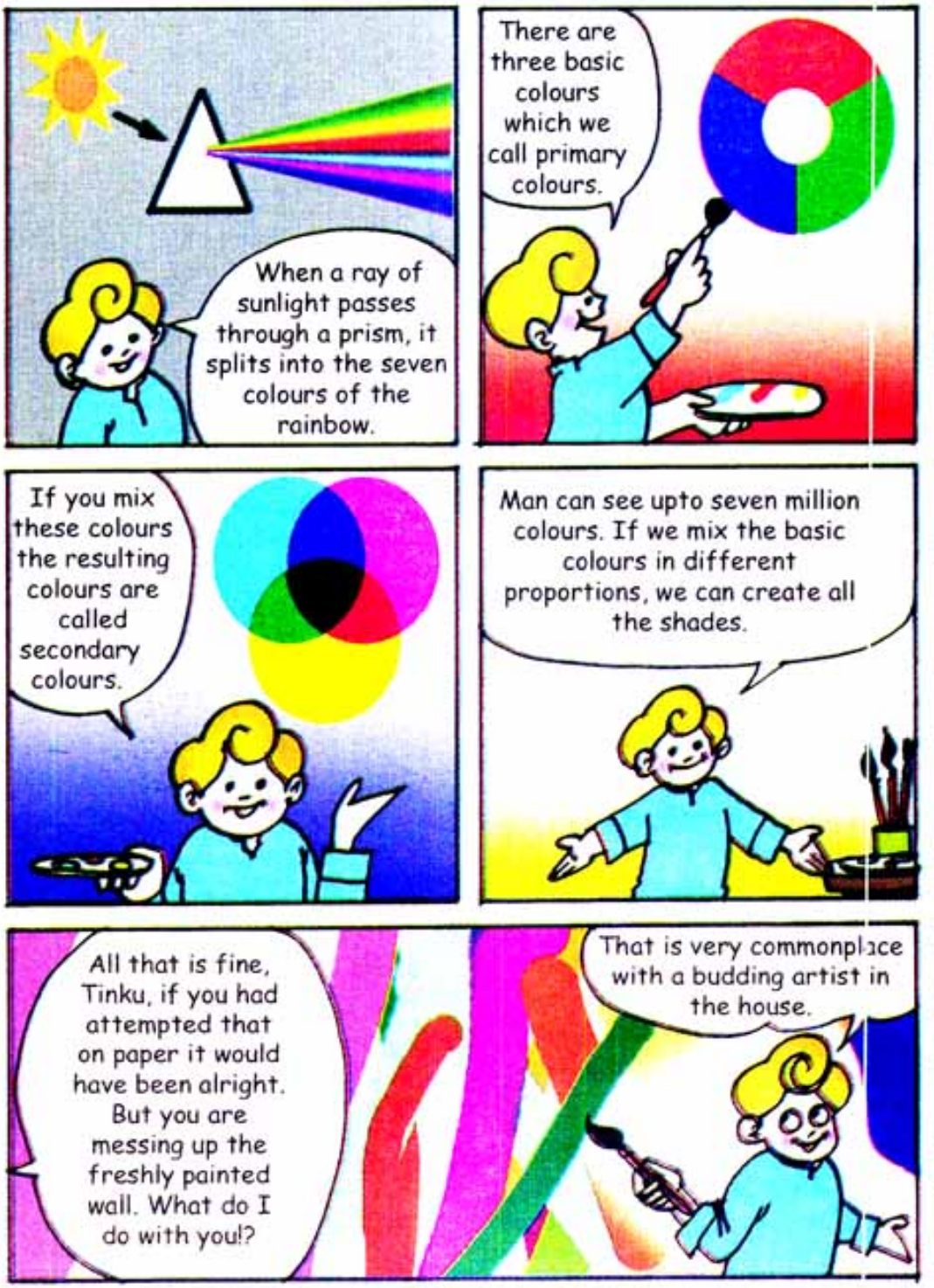
Son : Why, dad?

Father : You are the first in our family to have passed the board exams in the first attempt!

- Ashutosh Mishra,
Std.X, VEM School,
Bhubaneswar

TINKU

Story, Pictures: Pillai



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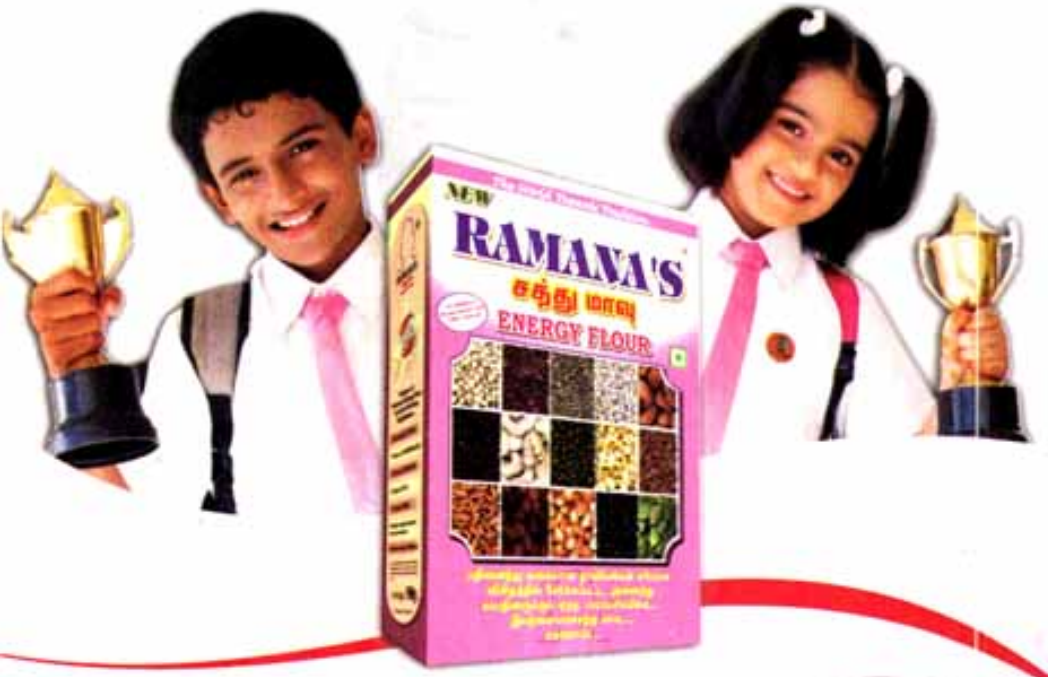

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